



Helen Mason

Healthy, thriving communities, Kia Momoho Te Hāpori Ōranga.



10 April 2018

BOPDHB receives Clinical Campus status

Many of you will be aware that our DHB has recently received official Clinical Campus status from the University of Auckland's (UOA) Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.

We are only the fifth such campus in New Zealand and only the second outside of Auckland to receive this level of recognition. It is an announcement which we can be justifiably proud of. It is a positive signal to our community and our patients and should give them great confidence in the services they're receiving and in the skillsets of our clinicians.

This year, the DHB will welcome 58 UOA medical students on year-long placements, alongside students from other health programmes including nursing, pharmacy, and dietetics. Having so many medical students learning and gaining experience with us is helpful in terms of being able to recruit staff in the future.

A growing number of our SMOs act as mentors to these students and I know that being able to pass on their knowledge, and helping support the new medical workforce to grow means a lot to them.

There are many who have helped contribute to this achievement. I would like to mention in particular Professor Peter Gilling, Dr Richard North, Dr Kate Grimwade, Dr Graeme Porter, Dr Prue McCallum, Leonie Alley and Matt Sinton for their contribution.

Professor Peter Gilling has been appointed to the new role of Assistant Dean Bay of Plenty. Peter's standing in the academic and surgical communities and his international achievements in urology and research have helped strengthen and reinforce the DHB's excellent reputation further afield. Thank you Peter!



News in brief

Contingency planning underway for potential nurses' strike

Negotiations are ongoing between District Health Boards and the nurses' union NZNO to address nurses' concerns about their pay and conditions of work.

Whilst we are all hoping for, and working towards, an amicable resolution we need to be prepared if this doesn't happen. The NZNO has indicated their next step could be strike action. The effect of removing a large percentage of the nursing workforce from our hospitals, for even a short period of time, is hard to overstate. And to ensure patient safety, we must be prepared as an organisation should strike action take place.

Contingency planning has begun in all DHBs across New Zealand. It is important to remember that the decisions made throughout this contingency planning process will be made in the best interest of our patients. I would ask for your understanding should any of these decisions impact you.

Easter thank you

Thank you to all staff who gave up time with their families and friends to work over the Easter Weekend to keep our communities safe. We had high numbers of patients coming through both hospitals and the efforts and dedication of our staff in handling that did not go unnoticed and is deeply appreciated.

Celebrate International CSSD Day

Today (Tuesday 10 April) is International CSSD (Central Sterile Supply Department) Day.

I would like to join in celebrating a team whose work is essential to the running of our hospitals. International CSSD Day is a reminder that we really are 'All-one-team' and that one department's work heavily influences and affects many others.

We recently received an email congratulating the sterile services team on their work and recognising the "fantastic essential job" they do. I would like to echo those sentiments and take the opportunity to wish them all a very happy International CSSD Day.

Fire testing

Property Services has recently been carrying out testing around the campuses on our fire preparedness. Site Engineer Shaun Hansen says they've found that a lot of staff who move working areas are not familiar with the procedures in their new place of work.

People need to know the procedure in the event of a fire, the safe fire evacuation route, and the Assembly Point. It is our responsibility to make sure we keep ourselves safe. Please ask yourself, do you know the safety procedures in your area?

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"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives."

– John F. Kennedy (1917-1963) 35th President of the United States.

Cyber Security testing – action to follow.

Our DHB is subject to between 3 and 10 cyber-attacks per second. That's 260,000-864,000 attacks each and every day. It's this sort of statistic which puts into context the importance of the regular phishing exercises that our I.T. team carries out. These are important in assessing how vigilant our staff are in dealing with phishing emails.

Disappointingly I have to report that over 100 staff failed the last test, going into the link provided and inputting their details. You only have to look at the experience of the NHS in the UK where services were closed down because of a cyber security breach to appreciate the seriousness of this. The reality is this is putting patients at risk.

We have been taking an approach of support and education to this point but unfortunately this is not working. We're now working on a different approach and more details will follow on this in the near future.

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Health Select Committee attendance

Board Chair Sally Webb and I recently travelled to Wellington to appear before the Health Select Committee and answer their questions on our organisational performance. We had not been asked to appear before the committee for nearly 10 years so it was a good process to go through and we came away well as a DHB.

Both Sally and I were really pleased to get the opportunity to talk about many of the things we're really proud of here in the Bay of Plenty. It's a long list but included things like: our Values; Creating our Culture; our Clinical Campus status; Care Capacity Demand Management; our union relationships; the Edgecumbe response; Strategic Health Services Plan (SHSP); and our staff.

Some interesting statistics came out of the exercise. The below all relate to the 2016/17 financial year:

- 10,417 elective procedures carried out
- 68,206 invoices processed
- 154 Official Information Act requests received
- Of 3,315 staff, 1,587 are nurses, 48%.
- 81% (2,680) of our staff are female.
- 29% (964) of our staff are aged 50-59 (the most common age bracket)
- The average length of service for staff members is 8.4 years.
- In the Bay of Plenty population we serve of 229,140 people; 25% (56,960) are Māori and 75% (172,180) are Non-Māori.