



Press Release

To:

From: Katherine Rock, Communications Co-ordinator
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Date: 16 February 2007

Subject: **Oral Health Services Review Consultation**

Over 60 people through out the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board area have attended Oral Health Service Review consultation meetings.

In addition to this, 40 written submissions have been received via the NMDHB website www.nmdhb.govt.nz or by mail. Submissions close 4pm February 22, 2007.

Project Manager Rebecca Hamid said, "From the meetings it is clear that education and prevention, along with access to dental services and are the most important issues for people."

"I take it to heart that schools, and people with school age children highlighted that dental care provided on school sites is the most effective. They tell me that attendance can then be managed by the school making services accessible to all.

"It appears that whether this on-site care is provided from a permanent clinic or from a mobile clinic does not matter so long as access is through the school."

The consultation meetings held were in Picton, Blenheim, Nelson, Motueka, Tapawera, and Golden Bay.

The three questions asked at the consultation meetings were:

What services currently serve your community well?

What are the gaps in the services?

How can we improve Oral Health Services?

The first phase of the Oral Health Services review began with a National School Dental Service Review in 2004 followed by a review of the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board's services and an assessment of existing resources. The Government has since released its guidelines for investment in child and adolescent Oral Health services which along with further public consultation will help the Board develop a business case for additional funding to submit to the Ministry of Health by 31 May 2007.

Ends
