

Welcome to another edition of Broadsheet please distribute this to all interested people.

## **Magnetic Resonance Imaging**

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) technology will be installed in Nelson Hospital this year through a shared cost agreement between two health providers. The initial purchase price of \$2.3m is to be shared equally between the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board and Nelson Radiology Ltd. This agreement allowed the MRI technology to be introduced into the hospital years ahead of the planned introduction.

## **Laboratory Request for Proposal**

Nelson Marlborough District Health Board is in negotiations with MEDLAB South to put into practice community and hospital laboratory service delivery options from their Response to Request for Proposal (RFP).

The Nelson Marlborough DHB expects that there will not be substantive changes to community specimen collection services in the district and the number of laboratory tests performed at Nelson and Wairau Hospitals is expected to increase with fewer tests sent to Christchurch for analysis.

Community laboratory services were centrally funded through the Health Funding Authority and the Ministry of Health until 2003. When district-wide funding for laboratory services was devolved to the DHB it was prudent to review the provision and funding of these services to maximise public investment for public benefit in the Nelson Marlborough district. The subsequent Request for Proposal used a model that would make one or more providers responsible for community and hospital laboratory services, allowing us to select an overall package of best value, quality, access and range of services at the best price.

Three proposals received were from: Alliance (Provider Division of NMDHB and Canterbury DHBs), MEDLAB South, and Nelson Diagnostic Laboratory.

NMDHB Chief Executive John Peters now leads a team in negotiating with MEDLAB South for all publicly funded community and hospital laboratory services in the district. It is expected that the service will be in place later this year.

## **PHO Fees Roll-out for the 45 to 64 Age Group**

From July 1, 2006 GPs can receive a higher subsidy of up to \$27 for patients seen in the 46 to 64 year age bracket. There have been national talks between Primary Health Organisations and the Ministry of Health over a clause in the contract that asks for a disclosure of fees and transparency of fee setting to ensure that fee subsidies are being passed on to patients. The MoH has made it possible for individual practices to sign up for the subsidy.

## **Cancer Control Strategy**

Alan Mackintosh is the Project Manager for the Palliative Care Project that will undertake research into the treatment path of terminally ill people in the Nelson Marlborough district. The research will investigate gaps and barriers in home-based care and hospital, hospice care. The final report on the project is expected in late July.

## **DHB Kaumatua**

During May four Kaumatua o Te Herenga Hauora were welcomed into the DHB. They are: in Marlborough; Rangi Joseph and Graeme Grennell, and in Nelson Tasman; Andy Joseph and Tahi Takao.

Kaumatua can be contacted through the Director of Maori Health Aroha Metcalf.

## Patient Travel

From January 1, 2006 Patient Travel is reimbursed from Healthpac in Dunedin instead of through District Health Boards.

Patients can apply to have travel costs reimbursed where a specialist has referred them to another specialist some distance away. Under some circumstances accommodation may also be reimbursed.

While DHB staff can assist with filling out registration forms for patient travel, and give general advice, and even fax forms to Healthpac in Dunedin, they cannot follow up applications or claims.

Patients are advised to contact Healthpac by calling free phone 0800 281 222.

Once the Ministry of Health has approved a patient registration for travel assistance a patient need only complete a claim form each time they claim. The ministry must receive the claim within 90 days of the last date of treatment.

Patients can get claim forms from health or disability specialist services, hospital social workers, Inquiries at Nelson and Wairau Hospitals or directly from the Ministry of Health website [www.moh.govt.nz](http://www.moh.govt.nz).

## After Hours Care

A formal project has been initiated to implement a sustainable solution to After Hours Care for the Nelson area. This project involves GPs in both the Nelson West Group and the Nelson City Group in conjunction with Nelson Bays PHO and NMDHB.

## Golden Bay Integrated Health Services Project

The Integrated Health Services Project is working to integrate Primary Health services and the Community Hospital into one facility. A Public Meeting held during May gave an opportunity for the Steering Committee of the project to report back on the preferred option for integrated services.

## Motueka Community Hospital

An agreement is being drafted for the sale of improvements at Motueka Hospital, and the lease of land to Friends of Motueka Hospital Trust.

The sale and lease will be the next step toward FOMHT providing health services from Motueka Hospital. The trust would receive funding through the DHB for health services and make independent decisions on the spending.

## Wairau Radiology Goes Digital

Wairau Hospital x-ray department will be digital by August, 2006.

A Computed Radiology (CR) and Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) will be introduced to the hospital in June. The x-ray machines already in use are compatible with digital technology. The change will be in how the images are processed.

Once in place the system will allow digitised x-ray images, and radiology reports to be sent electronically to clinicians, hospital departments, and GPs across the DHB area and to consulting clinicians in other areas.

### Hospital Advisory Committee Meets:

Nelson  
1pm Tuesday  
4 July 2006

### Disability Support Advisory Committee Meets:

Blenheim  
12 noon Tuesday  
20 June 2006

### Community and Public Health Advisory Committee Meets:

Nelson  
1pm Tuesday  
27 June 2006

### District Health Board Meets:

Blenheim  
10am Tuesday  
18 July 2006