



Nelson Marlborough
District Health Board

Information Broad Sheet

What's NMDHB up to?

It is NMDHB's intention that a Broadsheet of items of interest be circulated to those on our mailing list between each Board meeting.



January -
March 2003
Vol. 4

Services for Older People

Jane Large has been appointed as Project Manager for the **Integrated Continuum of Care**. The main guidance for this project comes from the Health of Older People Strategy. It is a very important project in the region, given our ageing population, and will focus on getting all relevant agencies working together to ensure we have the right services in the right place at the right time! Feel free to contact Jane Large if you would like to know more about this. Jane was previously manager of the Assessment Treatment and Rehabilitation (AT&R) Unit at Nelson Hospital and has a real commitment to effective services for older people.

An important step toward achieving an integrated health service is the devolution of funding for disability support services for older people to DHBs from 1 October 2003. The Ministry of Health and DHBs are working together to ensure a smooth transition and DHBs will need to demonstrate that it has the capability to take on this function.

Setting Health Service Priorities

The Board has a policy which details its principles for prioritisation and rationing and the decision-making criteria. This framework will be used to assess any new funding allocation and also over time will be used to assess the existing contracts that the Board holds. This policy is available to the public and can be obtained from our website or from the contact below.

DSAC (Disability Support Advisory Committee)

We are working towards advertising for additional members for the Disability Support Advisory Committee due to recent resignations. Keep an eye on the newspapers for details or contact the Board Office to register your interest in receiving an information pack when this is available.

The Ministry is requiring that DHBs report on the accessibility of services for people with disabilities – this is a new reporting requirement and covers all providers with whom the NMDHB has contracts, including our own provider division. It has been decided that it is most practical to obtain this information when contracts are being reviewed or renewed. Issues to consider include: use of interpreters for the deaf; the accessibility of buildings; and advocates for those with cognitive impairments.

Braemar Resettlement

The Braemar Resettlement project has been extended by a month and it is expected that clients will be resettled by June 2003. All clients/families/whanau have chosen their preferred service and 5 houses have been purchased (by Community Housing) with another 8 to go.

The Board is negotiating with Community Housing over selling some land near Alexandra Hospital in Richmond. The Board agreed to sell the land, subject to some conditions: Community Housing take all possible steps to minimise adverse impact on existing trees; consent of the Minister of Health being obtained for the sale; that the land be used for purposes consistent with, or complementary to services provided by NMDHB; and that an "offer back" clause be included.

Nelson Hospital Redevelopment

The redevelopment is rapidly progressing towards completion and planning is underway for an official opening – proposed to be in July 2003. The new Children's Ward and the Maternity Ward recently opened. The new Cafeteria and the volunteer's Hospital Shop are open to staff and the public on Level 2 above the new main entrance.

Rural Health Services – Update

MOTUEKA: Several workstreams are underway, building on the proposal for this area and the feedback we received from the community. These cover: maternity services; services for the elderly; mental health; sexual health and exploring the development of a PHO.

MURCHISON: A consultation process has been completed in Murchison. Two public meetings held in December were well attended and there was good discussion on the issues for that area. We received 31 written submissions and a report on these submissions is available from the Board Office and in Murchison.

GOLDEN BAY: Board members and staff attended several meetings in Golden Bay on 12 February to discuss the review of health services proposal. Submissions closed on 10 March with 33 received. A summary report is available.

It is intended that the Board consider a paper on recommended reconfiguration of services in each of these rural areas at their meeting on 8 April.

District Annual Plan

The Board is working on preparation of the District Annual Plan (DAP) for 2003/04. This involves considerable effort from many in the organisation, as we prepare an annual plan that meets the Minister of Health's expectations – broadly, that we get the best value from our resources in order to deliver better health outcomes for this population.

Community Involvement Policies

The Board suite of eight Community Involvement policies were reviewed at its meeting in February and renewed for 12 months. Overall the policies have operated well and only minor amendments were required. Updated policies will be available on the website soon or can be obtained from the contact below.

Nutrition, Physical Activity and Oral Health Promotion

These issues are some of the high priority areas for NMDHB as signalled in our Strategic Plan 2002-2012.

A key part of addressing these is a small team within the Health Promotion Team and consist of 3 part-time workers making up one FTE together: Marion Van Oeveren is a registered dietician, Caroline Ellis is a newly appointed health promoter for oral health and a third position is currently vacant.

The team is passionate about prevention and working together with others to achieve positive health outcomes for the community. Nutrition, physical activity and oral health are all high on the priority list of the government and DHB and the team has never been busier. Some examples of their activities are:

- Facilitation of PANT (Physical Activity and Nutrition Team) - an intersectoral group which works together on projects such as Walking School Buses, Workplace health and Push Play promotions.
- Health Promoting Schools - working with schools and school communities to promote a healthy food environment in schools.
- Nelson Breastfeeding Network - facilitating this group and working together with midwives, Lactation Consultants, Plunket, La Leche and many others to promote and support breastfeeding. We are also part of the Well Child Steering Group.
- Oral health promotion - visiting all pre-schools and Kohango Reo on a regular basis to promote enrolment in the school dental clinic by age 2 ½.
- Availability as a resource for other workers such as practice nurses, GPs, school health co-ordinators, Heart Foundation, Plunket Nurses & Maori health providers and providing regular updates on nutrition.
- Writing many submissions and letters – e.g. continuing to raise awareness about “Hidden Hunger”. In a nutshell, “Hidden Hunger” or food-poverty refers to the fact that people on lower incomes have inadequate access to healthy food as healthy food is more expensive than high-fat/sugar processed food.

This is only a selection of the activities the team is currently involved in and it is always looking for new challenges. Phone 546 1548 about any nutrition, physical activity or oral health promotion related issues.

Board & Advisory Committee Meetings

Board and Committee will generally meet in Nelson and Blenheim but opportunities will be taken to meet in outlying areas from time to time. Public Forums are held for 10-15 minutes at the beginning of all Advisory Committee and Board meetings. Upcoming meetings are:

Hospital Advisory Committee	1:00pm, 25 March	Training Dept, Wairau Hospital, Blenheim
Board meeting	10:15, 8 April	Community Centre, Wallace St, Motueka
Disability Support Advisory Committee	1:00pm, 22 April	St Andrews Church Hall, 5 Henry St, Blenheim
Community and Public Health committee	1:00pm, 29 April	Training Dept, Wairau Hospital, Blenheim

How to contact us

Feel free to distribute this newsletter. If you know anyone else that would like to receive one, if you would like to follow-up on anything in the newsletter or obtain a copy of any reports mentioned, please email enquiries.corporate@nmhs.govt.nz; ph (03) 546 1963; Board Office, NMDHB, Private Bag 18, Nelson.