

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



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Primary Health Organisations

What are they?

Primary Health Organisations (PHOs) are currently being established around NZ as part of the Government's Primary Health Care Strategy. A PHO is an organisation in which a range of primary health care services comes together to provide comprehensive primary health care services to the population who are enrolled with that PHO.

Primary health care covers a broad range of out-of-hospital services, although not all of them are Government funded. It includes first level services such as general practice services, and can also include mobile nursing services, community health services targeted especially for certain conditions (like maternity services and dentistry), and those using particular therapies (such as physiotherapy).

Good primary health care is crucial to improving the health of New Zealanders especially for those groups who have poorer health than the general population such as Maori and Pacific peoples. The Government felt that a different approach to primary health care could improve the health of all New Zealanders through giving more emphasis to health promotion and preventative care, having the community more involved, having health professionals working closely together and making services more accessible.

The Government is putting more funding into primary health care with the aim of making it easier for people to use these services early, when they need them, and thus preventing more serious problems later. This is particularly important for people with high needs.

PHOs in Nelson Marlborough

In Nelson Marlborough, the general practitioners' organisation, South Link Health, has been working with other organisations such as the Maori Development Organisation, Poumanawa Oranga, to facilitate the establishment of PHOs. There is now a proposal with the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board to establish two PHOs in the region – one in Marlborough and one in Nelson/Tasman.

Not all of the primary care services will initially be included in these PHOs. It is likely that, at first, general practice services will form the majority of services provided by the PHOs. It is anticipated that other services (such as Maori health services, pharmacists and dentists) may join over time.

What is involved in being on the Establishment Board of a PHO?

PHOs will initially have an Establishment Board to establish and oversee the initial operation of the PHO. They will also implement processes for key tasks, including forming the permanent PHO Board.

Each of the PHOs proposed for Nelson Marlborough will have an Establishment Board of ten people with a term of up to 12 months. This will include a chairperson, three primary care practitioners, three Maori and three community representatives. NMDHB is facilitating the appointment process for the community representatives, while the Iwi Health Board is working with Poumanawa Oranga to appoint the appropriate Maori representatives. Primary care practitioners will select their representatives.

Establishment Board members can anticipate a high workload for the first few months as the PHO 'finds its feet' but this may reduce to monthly meetings over time. Board members will likely receive an honorarium. The Board of an organisation is responsible for the successful performance of that organisation. Members are expected to act in good faith; with honesty and integrity; with reasonable care and diligence and in the

interests of the organisation rather than their personal interests.

Board members need to give the time and energy required to carry out these responsibilities. This means making every effort to be as informed and as knowledgeable as possible about their responsibilities and to prepare for and attend scheduled meetings so that the best decisions possible are made.

If you are interested in becoming a community member of one of the PHO Establishment Boards, applications close at 4pm, 25 November 2003. For information, contact Claire McKenzie, phone (03) 546 1664, fax (03) 546 1747, or email claire.mckenzie@nmhs.govt.nz

Snippets from the recent Board meeting

Some of the items considered at the Board meeting in Blenheim on 4 November were:

- A presentation from, and discussion with, Colin Feek from the Clinical Services Directorate in the Ministry of Health. With the guidance of the Minister of Health, the directorate priorities are: the Primary Health Care Strategy, elective surgical services, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, all with an inequalities focus. Colin noted that NZ is performing well in terms of elective services when considering that 450,000 people are referred for First Specialist Assessments each year. However, he noted there are areas for development, including continued improvement in Specialist/GP liaison; increasing efficiency through technology and changes in processes, so that the established capacity can be utilised.
- Development of discussion on ways to address the financial pressures, particularly for the Board's Provider Division. Some short-term measures will be instigated to address the immediate problem of a growing deficit, but NMDHB will also be investigating more fundamental issues in terms of funding, contracting and delivery of services to ensure financial sustainability in the long term.
- The Board agreed to facilitate the selection of community members for the PHO Establishment Boards.
- The Board has discussed at previous meetings their concerns over the closure of the Taha Maori alcohol and drug treatment programme at Hanmer and written to the Ministry of Health about this. At this meeting, the Board was pleased to receive the news that alternative services are going to be funded, but the Board will write again to the Ministry urging them to 'fast-track' this development.

Awards for Quality Improvement Projects

A new awards programme for quality improvement projects at NMDHB has been made possible with a donation of \$2,500.00 from the Health Service Welfare Society (HSWS). Entry criteria were developed and circulated to those that wished to enter a project. The Judging Panel selected four Quality Improvement Projects as prizewinners. The first awards were presented on October 29th 2003 by Bernie Wood, CEO, HSWS for these projects:

- Reducing the hazards to staff handling Formalin in Theatre - Maureen Leggett, Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL), Theatre, Wairau.
- Developing a Paediatric Head Injury Learning Package for Emergency Department - Carolyn Bennison, Staff Nurse, Emergency Department, Nelson.
- Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme, PULSE, in Nelson - Sarah Clayton, Cardiac Liaison Nurse, Nelson.
- Day of Surgery patient admitted through Day Stay Unit - Lynne Mercer, CNL, Day Stay Unit, Nelson.

The remainder of the prize money will be awarded in March 2004 for projects completed in the last six months of 2003.

Board & Advisory Committee Meetings

Community & Public Health Advisory Committee

25 November 2003 - Franklyn Hall, Franklyn Street, Nelson, 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Special Board Meeting - To consider pharmacy and PHO proposals.

25 November 2003 (note changed date) - Dalton House, Franklyn Street, Nelson, 5.30 pm

Hospital Advisory Committee

2 December 2003 - Room 5, Training & Development Centre, Wairau Hospital, Blenheim, 1.00-4.00 pm

Full Board

16 December 2003 - Franklyn Hall, Franklyn Street, Nelson, 9.30 am – 12 noon

How to contact us

Please feel free to distribute this newsletter or let us know of anyone else that would like to receive one. To follow-up on anything within the newsletter or obtain a copy of any of the reports mentioned, please email enquiries.corporate@nmhs.govt.nz, ph (03) 546 1963 or write to Janet Drysdale, NMDHB, PB 18, Nelson.