



Media Release

To: Marlborough Media
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Date: 9 November 2007
Subject: **Wairau Hospital Redevelopment Proposal to Consult with Staff**

Nelson Marlborough District Health Board is consulting with staff of Wairau Hospital over future workforce models for the redevelopment of Wairau Hospital.

Through the more efficient layout of building space compared to the present fragmented site the redevelopment would need 11 fewer Full Time Equivalent positions.

The staffing model proposed in the consultation and presented to staff over the last couple of days gave the outline of where six of these positions might be reduced. Staff have until December 7 to make submissions on the proposal.

The submissions would then be considered by the Project Steering Group when making a final decision.

Acting Chief Operating Officer James Bowyer said, "The reconfiguration of the hospital layout gives a number of opportunities to co-locate wards and administration that at present may be duplicated due to the rambling nature of the existing buildings.

"The proposal put to staff over the last few days, is a start to finding these efficiencies. In the first instance we would always hope to find these savings through attrition."

Originally the 2005 Business Case called for a saving of 27 Full Time Equivalent Positions, however due to increased demand for Wairau Hospital services these have been revised to the current 11.

Mr Bowyer said, "The increase in demand and capacity for services in Wairau meant that there is funding to cover the revised number of positions."

As the redevelopment progressed the demand and capacity and funding for Wairau services would be monitored to ensure the best fit of staff positions to the new layout and models of care, he said.

ENDS
