



Media Release

To: Media
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Subject: Board Members Visit Stage One As Completion Nears

Stage One of the Wairau Hospital Redevelopment is nearing completion and will be ready for patients and services at the end of May.

On Tuesday, April 7, the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board took the opportunity to walk through the nearly completed complex that when certified will house: Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Social Work, District Nursing, Assessment Treatment and Rehabilitation (AT&R) ward, Inpatient wards for Medical and Surgical patients, Pharmacy, the new Chapel and Pukenga Hauora (Maori Health).

It is expected that these departments and wards will move in at the end of May, followed by the Chapel opening in early June.

The first sod was turned for the Stage One construction in August 2008 and will be completed at the end of April. During May the new facility will go through a certification process with the Ministry of Health to ensure it meets regulations.

Chief Operating Officer Keith Rusholme said, "We are very impressed with the way staff, management, clinicians have worked with the development team to make this happen. It will be a facility that staff and community can be proud of. Everyone has worked very hard to make this happen."

Project Director Martin Ridgway said, "From August 2008 to April the contractors have worked tirelessly to bring the first stage to completion, we are not there yet but from all reports this will happen. And from my calculations this stage will be within the budget set."

"We have to remind ourselves that this is the first of four stages to be built. We are already working on Stage 2 which will see all of the Arthur Wicks building inhabitants relocated either temporarily or into Stage One. And a major refurbishment will be carried out on the building for the Emergency Department, and an Acute Assessment Unit with offices on the second floor."

Services from the Arthur Wicks building that will be moved to temporary locations at the end of May are: Medical Outpatients and ECG to District Nursing; Oncology, Day Stay Unit, and High Dependency Unit to Ward 5 (the old AT&R ward).

"The Imaging building will also be constructed next to Arthur Wicks as part of the second stage of development, and so it is great to have Stage One near completion but we have some way to go," said Mr Ridgway.

Mr Ridgway said a public open day for the Stage One development was planned for Saturday, May 23 the details of which would be advertised closer to the date.

He said a blessing ceremony would be held prior to the open day however this would be for staff only, as a celebration and public ceremony blessing the facility would take place once all stages were completed.

For more information on the redevelopment and to view the webcam pictures go to www.nmdhb.govt.nz/wairau.

ENDS
