
MEMO

To: Board Members
From: Judith Holmes, Consumer Council Chair
Date: 23 January 2019
Subject: **Consumer Council Report**

Status

This report contains:

- For decision
- Update
- Regular report
- For information

The Consumer Council met in Nelson on Monday 10 December 2018.

The Council has received a request from the South Island Alliance Information Services (SIA IS) to be included in the development of a consumer focused strategy for the group. The SIA IS is seeking consumer engagement across the South Island. Their first step is for their representative (Dr Nigel Millar, Chief Medical Officer, Southern DHB) to visit each South Island DHB Consumer Council (or equivalent) to discuss patient information sharing, and also strategies for engaging consumers in this work. The Council is very keen to be involved in this work as we consider it an important, relevant, and pertinent topic and one that is going to become increasingly important with further advances in technology in the next phase of patient record keeping.

The Clinical Governance Committee Chair spoke to the Council about sustainability in healthcare. The Council acknowledged the importance of considering waste, climate change and all aspects related to sustainability in healthcare decisions. The Council is very conscious of, and grateful for, the escalating awareness of these topics in the general community as various items hit the news (such as the growing concern around the over use of plastics.) While the discussion was somewhat academic, the Council is keen to support and be involved in, ethical and practical decision making in which sustainability is a key consideration. The Council is in strong support of initiatives to reduce non-biodegradable waste already in place in NMH and keen to see even greater paring down of non-essential non sustainable materials.

The General Manager, Maori Health and Vulnerable Populations spoke to the Council about the equity initiatives and programmes being run across Nelson Marlborough. The Council was pleased to hear about the engagement of high needs consumers to understand their needs and concerns about health care. The Council noted the large number and breadth of initiatives, which were well supported and inter-sectoral. The Council is particularly pleased by initiatives that take services to high needs populations rather than expecting them to come to us.

We are currently recruiting for a replacement Consumer Council member and hope to make an appointment early in the new year.

There is no January Consumer Council meeting. Our next meeting will be on Monday 18 February in Nelson.

Judith Holmes
Consumer Council Chair

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE BOARD RECEIVES THE CONSUMER COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT.