

## Our new Consumer Council

Patients, clients, service users, family and whanau are at the heart of our services. So in order to shape and improve our health system it makes sense to involve those who use and care about our services.

Recently Nelson Marlborough Health established a new Consumer Council made up of seven members with diverse geographic and demographic backgrounds.

As an advisory group our Consumer Council will provide a strong consumer voice and view to the Board and management.

The Council will not discuss or review issues that are (or should be) processed as formal complaints, or provide clinical evaluation of health services or individual patient care.



From left: Angelea Stanton, Diane Strong, Judith Holmes (Chair), Craig Vercoe (Deputy Chair), Kamaya Crawford, Philippa Hyndman and Pita Akauola make up the newly formed Nelson Marlborough Health Consumer Council.

## LET'S *talk* ABOUT...

I recently completed a two-week series of community meetings where, with Nelson Marlborough Health partners, we presented progress against our Primary and Community Strategy goals.

We spoke about new initiatives that will help close the equity gap and improve the health of our most vulnerable people. We explained our focus on child health and how we are putting in more resources to meet mental health challenges head-on.

The meetings were an excellent opportunity to hear people's concerns. People reminded me of the need to support parents, the gaps in youth health initiatives and the vulnerability of rural people.

The audiences made it clear that we need to keep addressing the issue of poor-quality housing and the need to support those delivering mental health care at the 'coal face'.

This was our second round of meetings in seven months and I want to keep them coming. Please refer to the information on this page to find out how to stay informed.

Chief Executive Peter Bramley



Join the Sweet Enough Water Only programme and help create healthy drink environments for our kids. Sugary drinks cause poor oral health, contribute to childhood obesity and Type 2 diabetes and are associated with problem behaviours. This is why Nelson Marlborough Health is asking schools and sports organisations to adopt water and plain milk-only guidelines. For more information about joining the programme please contact [aaryn.barlow@nmdhb.govt.nz](mailto:aaryn.barlow@nmdhb.govt.nz).



## Keep in touch with us

Ka pai to everyone who came to our recent community meetings where we discussed progress towards our Primary & Community Health Strategy goals.

We know that you want to stay informed and have your say.

**Here's how we advertise our public meetings and consultations:**

- public notices in your local newspapers and this 'Health News' page
- news and notices on our website [www.nmdhb.govt.nz](http://www.nmdhb.govt.nz)
- through [www.facebook.com/nelsonhospital](http://www.facebook.com/nelsonhospital) or [www.facebook.com/wairauhospital](http://www.facebook.com/wairauhospital) or [www.facebook.com/nmdhb](http://www.facebook.com/nmdhb)
- email invitations: register to receive a notification at [www.nmdhb.govt.nz/community-meeting](http://www.nmdhb.govt.nz/community-meeting)

Where possible we will also use existing community networks and agencies to circulate information.