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# MEMO

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**To:** Board Members  
**From:** Jenny Black, Chair  
**Date:** 17 January 2018  
**Subject:** **Chair's Report**

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## *Status*

This report contains:

- For decision
- Update
- Regular report
- For information

Welcome to 2018, a new calendar year and half way through our DHB year. I understand it has been the usual busy summer for all in Health in the Te Tau Ihu, with our influx of visitors and good weather, people have made the most of our region and all the wonderful adventures that sea, mountains, rivers and lakes provide. For all the team that have been on duty, thank you for providing such great care and I hope you get a chance to enjoy some of the summer in the next few weeks.

Looking ahead, there is the usual and the exciting. Annual planning, budgets, surgical planning, and no doubt a review or two will continue as they must to ensure that we live within our means, plan for future needs and serve the population we are responsible for. On the exciting side, the much awaited Patient Management System and the Data Storage Projects will be rolled out this year. This will replace our Oracare system which is no longer fit for purpose and will enable our system to be much more connected and for us to provide better patient centred care, in a timely way. The work continues on planning for the new Nelson hospital. I have asked the Chief Executive to give us an update on progress on both of these projects over the next month or two.

At the end of 2017, we had a brief visit from the new Minister of Health, Dr David Clark. In the time together we were able to show him the Nelson site, visit a ward which introduced him to several senior staff and have a discussion on the issues that we face here at NMH. It was a very useful session and he looks forward to visiting us again. He has a very strong interest in primary health, mental health care and the Public Health Service and so in the coming year we can expect a greater focus on these areas.

A new acting Director General of Health (DG) will take up his post in February. Stephen McKernan has been a DG previously and will provide very strong stewardship for the time that it takes for a permanent appointment to be found. We look forward to working with both these Health leaders in 2018.

Jenny Black  
Chair

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE CHAIR'S REPORT BE RECEIVED.**