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# MEMO

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**To:** Board Members  
**From:** Jenny Black, Chair  
**Date:** 21 November 2018  
**Subject:** **Chair's Report**

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## *Status*

This report contains:

- For decision
- Update
- Regular report
- For information

This is the last Board meeting of 2018. I would like to take the opportunity to look back over the calendar year, note the many innovations and opportunities taken, and the challenges we faced.

The going live of the South Island Patient Information System (SIPICS) would have to rate as one of the outstanding achievements of this year. This system has had a very long gestation and the preparation for its arrival has been considered and carefully planned. As a major enabler of our system, this is a game changer. Like all change it is not without teething issues, but I would like to thank the various teams and leaders who have hung in there and ensured that we will realise the benefits of this system in years to come.

The other “go live” was the National Bowel Screening programme. This is a great addition to our diagnostic toolkit and will bring benefits to our population with earlier diagnosis of bowel cancers and, therefore, better outcomes.

As we prepare for the new Nelson Hospital build, we have added extra capability to support two main bodies of work: the Models of Care, and the writing of the Indicative Business Case. There have been discussions, workshops, new groups formed involving staff from across the top of the south health sector. It may be a new hospital but the whole system needs to help to design what we will need for the next 50 years. This is an enormous opportunity to be involved in transformational change around how we care for our population, and how we work together to improve, promote and protect everyone to live well, get well, and stay well. Exciting times and, again, a huge thank you to the team who have added this work to their daily work load.

The Community Hubs in Wairau and Richmond continue to add services and become a central point for the community facing aspects of care provision.

Earlier in the year, the Board held a workshop to discuss End of Life Care and how we can encourage our population to start discussions in the community in a peaceful, non acute setting. Our aim is to have people thinking about how they would like their last days to be spent, and it was great to see many staff willing to be part of these conversations.

Throughout the year we have continued to work with our health partners to tackle the issues of equity, with several pieces of work like Pepi First, Hauora Direct, getting real traction.

Yes, there have been challenges of capacity, workforce disruption, and financial constraint but overall, I believe NMH has continued to provide wonderful service to our population. To the 2700+ NMH staff, thank you, thank you, thank you. You do make a difference every day. To the CE and the Executive Leadership Team, thank you for leading, inspiring innovation and living our values. The respect, trust, innovation and teamwork is evident throughout the organisation.

To members of the Board, thank you for working together for the benefit of the organisation. We do add value, we challenge and make decisions in a respectful way and I value your support and contribution.

I hope you all have a happy summer break with those dearest to you, and I look forward to seeing you in January when we will come together to prepare for another year in the life of NMH.

Jenny Black  
Chair

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**THAT THE BOARD RECEIVE THE CHAIR'S REPORT.**