

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**4 November**

**NMDHB 2015/16 Annual Plan gains approval**

The 2015/16 Nelson Marlborough District Health Board three- year Annual Plan has been approved by the Minister of Health, Hon Dr Jonathon Coleman.

NMDHB Chair, Jenny Black says the plan supports the Board's commitment to providing excellence in healthcare, while living within its means.

"The Annual Plan 2015-16 sets out how we will increase support for families to prevent illness and better manage long term conditions," she says. "We will continue to integrate services across traditional community, primary and secondary settings so patients and their families experience a single system of healthcare."

Black says the organisation will continue work with the Nelson Marlborough communities to promote, encourage and enable their health, wellbeing and independence.

"We plan to increase support for families to prevent chronic disease and obesity, and to better manage long-term conditions by improving health literacy and other initiatives."

In order to provide integrated and efficient services, the annual plan identifies the need for a highly skilled workforce working at the 'top of their scope'. Innovative new models of care and new ways of working will be developed to support the Boards aim to provide better, sooner, more convenient care.

The report acknowledges that some sectors of the community, specifically Maori, may struggle to access healthcare. However, the Board is committed to working towards equitable health outcomes for all its consumers across the wider community.

“We will continue to invest in initiatives that will strengthen our commitment to our ‘One Service, Two Sites’ approach for medical and surgical services in Nelson and Wairau Hospitals,” says Black.

The annual plan is available on <http://www.nmdhb.govt.nz/PublishedDocuments.aspx>

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