



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Future healthcare model shared with Nelson public

The first public meeting outlining the draft Primary and Community Health Strategy, which will help shape the way healthcare is delivered in the future, was presented by health sector leaders in Nelson last night.

Nelson Marlborough Healthy Acting Chief Executive Peter Bramley says he was pleased with the level of engagement shown by the Nelson community at the meeting.

“We have a real challenge to the provision of healthcare needed in the future,” he says, “so it’s encouraging to see people coming out to let us know their thoughts on how we can wrap health services and support around people closer to their homes.”

Bramley and co presenter Ditre Tamatea, General Manager Maori Health & Vulnerable Populations outlined key elements they believe will bring the strategy to life. These include healthy families and communities; better health outcomes; connecting health care providers; improving access; utilising technology and evidence led healthcare plans and responses to the changing needs of the community.

The themes raised by the public attending the Nelson meeting included laboratory access, affordability of healthcare, the importance of nutrition, technology and older people, community engagement, gathering health information, projected health workforce requirements, oral health care and healthcare funding distribution.

The strategy proposes a healthcare model that puts the individual and their whanau at the centre, with various agencies and organisations in the community working together to support them to achieve and maintain good health. The model sees many services currently provided at the hospital being accessible in the community providing care closer to home and increasing the use of primary and community care.

Feedback on the draft strategy is open until 10 November. The feedback will be reviewed and collated, and where required, added to the document, so it can be actioned as appropriate.

Strategy background:

Late last year the region's health sector leaders agreed on a collaborative approach to developing a Primary and Community Health Strategy for Nelson Marlborough.

The Chief Executives of Nelson Marlborough Health, Nelson Bays and Kimi Hauora Wairau Primary Health Organisations, Chris Fleming, Angela Francis and Beth Tester, all voiced their commitment to leading health sector change.

Nearly 150 people representing various areas of primary and community care - GP practice teams, pharmacies and community provider representatives such as Te Piki Oranga, St John and the Alzheimer's Society, contributed to the draft Primary and Community Health Strategy.

The resulting model of care is designed to meet the emerging challenges ahead and to improve healthcare and health outcomes for all in our region.

About the strategy:

The draft Primary and Community Health Strategy outlines our direction for primary and community health across the Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough regions over the next 5-10 years. It describes the challenges that will place our healthcare and disability services under pressure in the years to come, and how we can address these challenges by changing the way we provide these services.

[The draft strategy is online at www.nmdhb.govt.nz/health-strategy](http://www.nmdhb.govt.nz/health-strategy)

Nelson Marlborough Health is also collecting feedback via a form, sent in by post or submitted online.

Public meetings are scheduled in the following areas:

Blenheim	Wednesday, 5 Oct	6pm	St John's Hall, 93 Seymour Street
Murchison	Monday, 17 Oct	5.30pm	Murchison Sport, Recreation & Cultural Centre, 34 Hampden St
Golden Bay	Wednesday, 19 Oct	5.30pm	Takaka Bowling Club, 17 Hiawatha Ln
Richmond	Wednesday, 26 Oct	5.30pm	Richmond Library, Queen Street
Motueka	Thursday, 27 Oct	5.30pm	Te Awhina Marae, 133 Pah Street

Ends

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