

TE WHETU MARAMA

NOVA

THE OFFICIAL STAFF NEWSLETTER FOR THE AUCKLAND DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

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Celebrating, rewarding & recognising

November is a very special month at ADHB where we devote a full week toward recognising and acknowledging the commitment and dedication of our staff, while celebrating our achievements in education, research and innovation.

Celebration Week is in its fifth year at ADHB and is being held between 16 and 20 November. The full programme of events is published on **page 7** and illustrates that we indeed have much to celebrate!

Awards will be presented for outstanding contributions during some grand rounds, while volunteers and long-servicing staff will be celebrated for their dedication and service. Research by ADHB clinical staff will also be exhibited on extensive displays in Auckland City and Starship hospitals and staff may also like to join an art tour to learn about our art collection.

Celebration Week is an event we take great pride in, and I encourage everyone to join in, acknowledge your colleagues and learn something new about the excellent work that goes on around the organisation every day.

It was great to be part of the recent launch of Phase One of the Hand Hygiene Implementation programme. Over the past year we have experienced first hand some significant infection control events, such as the worldwide H1N1 pandemic and the recent measles outbreak. These have been a timely reminder of the importance of hand hygiene, the need to improve practices and sustain good habits.

As the lead DHB for the national Infection Prevention and Control programme, and one of three DHBs leading the 'roll out' of the hand hygiene project, we have a responsibility to set new benchmarks and inspire others, and I am confident we will do just that.

Another significant day in the calendar this month is White Ribbon Day, 25 November, where we reflect on another topic of importance – violence. The ADHB is once again running events to raise awareness and help support staff working with those impacted by family violence. Learn more on **page 3**. And of course ADHB does not tolerate violence of any kind within the organisation. We have programmes running to support staff who are personally affected by this and violence is unacceptable in any form within the workplace.

Since my last column, there have been well documented developments regarding the provision of community laboratory services which has seen a change to a two provider system which became effective as of 19 October. Diagnostic Medlab was rehired to take over 10 per cent of the community contract. Our stringent focus remains on achieving a quality service for our patients and referring clinicians. Key indicators of performance will be published for both providers.

Finally, I would like to again send our thoughts and best wishes to the Samoan, American Samoan and Tongan people following the tragic tsunami events early last month. Many of our staff were personally impacted by this event and we offer our condolences, sympathy and support as you deal with these tragic circumstances.



Garry

Garry Smith
Chief Executive

Nova – Keeping Costs Down

In the current tight fiscal environment all areas of ADHB are watching their costs. Nova magazine is no different.

Over the last year the publication has reduced the number of pages from 16 to eight per month as well as reducing the number of copies printed. We also offered all ex-staff receiving the magazine the opportunity to receive instead an electronic version. These measures have significantly decreased the price.

Discussion was also had about whether the magazine should be printed at all, with the suggestion being it could be available online only. However the unique make-up of the ADHB workforce, with so many staff not having regular access to a computer, means a hard copy of the magazine is vital to keeping everyone informed.

If you have any other suggestions or feedback please feel free to contact the editor on jennywi@adhb.govt.nz.



The NOVA Awards were introduced in 2005 as one way to recognise employees and teams whose own values align with the four ADHB adopted values: Integrity; Respect; Innovation; and Effectiveness.

The NOVA Award works by nomination – anyone can submit a story about an individual or team who has demonstrated our values 'above and beyond' that expected in the workplace. Nominations are then reviewed by a committee, and worthy nominations are put forward to receive an award at one of the six monthly State of the Nation addresses.

By encouraging stories to be told, ADHB hopes to uncover the stars that glow within our midst. NOVA is the name given to a star when it is born, and its Maori translation Te Whetu Marama means 'Bright Star'.

For more information on the Nova Awards, or to make a nomination, visit the Nova Awards page under CEO News on the intranet.

It's OK to talk

Family violence is not ok, but it is ok to talk about - with patients, with our colleagues, within our teams, and with our family/whanau – that's the message behind this month's *Family Violence Intervention Programme (FVIP)* campaign supporting ADHB staff within Children's Health and support services.

Rachel Smith, FVIP Coordinator, says ADHB has dedicated health professionals and processes in place to support frontline staff to help manage partner and child abuse cases.

"Our FVI Team and Te Puaruruhau will spend the month supporting staff with their partner and child abuse clinical practice and listen to their experiences of working with these issues," explains Rachel.

"We hope to not only raise awareness about family violence and the FVIP but also improve partner abuse screening rates so that our overall management of disclosures and suspected cases is strengthened."

Rachel says the important message is that it's okay to talk about family violence with patients, and to be supported by colleagues in the process.

Kathrine Newell, Team Leader of Te Puaruruhau and the FVI Team, said it was also important to emphasise the consultation process.

"When a woman/caregiver discloses partner abuse, we must ask questions about risks to children and vice versa and when working with partner and child abuse issues, we advise to never work alone, always consult," she says.

The November campaign will also involve working with staff in other key services including He Kamaka Oranga, the Pacific Family Support Unit and the Children's Health Social Work Team.

Readers who would like to contact a Family Violence agency can phone Shine* which is a free domestic violence helpline on 0508 384 357.

Te Puaruruhau is a committed team of paediatricians, nurse specialists and social workers who see children and young people up to the age of 10 who have experienced abuse and neglect. Their service is located within Puawaitahi, a child protection multi-agency centre, and operates weekdays, as well as on call.

Keynote Speaker Turned Life Around

Each year He Kamaka Oranga, Pacific Health, ARPMS and Shine* collaboratively organise events around White Ribbon Day.

This year the keynote speaker is Brian Gardner, National Manager Tau Iwi, Te Kupenga Whakaoti Mahi Patunga – the National Network of Stopping Violence Services (NNSVS).

Come and hear him speak on 26 November between 1.30 - 3pm, CEC, ACH.

New Fibroscan machine benefits liver disease patients

New, state-of-the-art Fibroscan technology for the detection of liver fibrosis and cirrhosis means that patients with chronic liver disease at Auckland City Hospital's Liver Unit will no longer need to face the discomfort of traditional liver biopsies.

The Fibroscan machine, which has been operational at ACH since late July 2009, uses transient elastography, non-invasive ultrasound technique, to provide a safe and effective method of determining the severity of chronic liver disease.

"The traditional method of carrying out a liver biopsy was to insert a needle through the abdomen into the liver, extracting a piece of liver tissue in order to determine the severity of fibrosis and whether cirrhosis is present," says Associate Professor Ed Gane, hepatologist at ADHB's Liver Unit.

"These procedures are typically very painful and the patient would usually require one to two days off work afterwards. In addition, there is a small but real risk of life threatening bleeding and gallbladder puncture."

Now there will be no need for needles as the new fibroscan machine measures liver stiffness through an ultrasound probe held against the patient's abdomen.

"The Fibroscan generates a pulse which sends waves through the liver, measuring its stiffness. The degree of stiffness in the liver indicates the amount of disease in the liver – so the greater the stiffness, the more disease there is," adds Professor Gane.



Left to right: Kathy Oliver, Team Support, Liver Unit with Ashok Raj, Hepatology Registrar, Liver Unit and Associate Professor Ed Gane, Hepatologist, Liver Unit.

The procedure now takes just five to ten minutes at the bedside and unlike liver biopsy, has no complications or side effects.

Furthermore it is expected to replace staging liver biopsies in 95 per cent of patients with chronic liver disease.

"The fibroscan procedure is already making a huge difference to our patients' lives," says Professor Gane.

"For patients who previously declined a liver biopsy because of fear of pain or complications, or for those who could

not have liver biopsies because of high risk of bleeding (such as people with haemophilia), the Fibroscan has provided a new alternative to determine the severity of liver disease and ensure that patients receive the most appropriate therapy at the correct time.

Until now approximately 400 to 450 traditional liver biopsies were carried out each year.

However, over the last two months, hepatologists have performed 279 fibroscans – more than double the number of biopsies which were performed during the same period previously.

"Because the Fibroscan procedure is so quick and easy we are able to see more patients in a shorter amount of time.

"It has been with us for only a short amount of time, but the positive impact on the care we can provide to our patients is tremendous," adds Professor Gane.

ADHB Mental Health - Family Focus Series



Left to right: Seema Woollaston, Sarah Laing, Epenesa Olo-Whaanga. Absent: Luci Falconer

Tu Tangata Tonu

A pilot programme which helps and supports children of parents with mental illness better understand their condition is proving its worth, says Auckland District Health Board.

The programme, *Tu Tangata Tonu*, is facilitated at the Kari Centre, ADHB's Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service.

Project Coordinator Seema Woollaston says often the focus is on individuals suffering a mental illness, but education and support is also needed for family members and those living with someone who has a mental illness, especially children.

The Ministry of Health approved funding for a pilot programme in 2007.

"The purpose of the pilot was to evaluate support for children and young people who may struggle at times in families where their parent or parents experience mental illness," says Seema.

"*Tu Tangata Tonu* provides an outlet where it's okay to raise concerns, as well as gain meaningful education about mental illnesses and how best to cope with it.

"The programme is certainly proving its worth as we find that many children are unsure of what mental illness is and can experience difficult feelings, isolation and stigma which we can help them work through."

"Unfortunately we are only funded to offer services within the ADHB catchment, but we hope this pilot proves there is a real need and desire for the same service to be offered elsewhere."

As part of *Tu Tangata Tonu*, Seema says a peer support and education school holiday programme for young people aged 8 to 12 years has also been facilitated at Kari Centre.

"It's a popular programme among attendees because children are able to meet peers who have had similar experiences to them and talk through issues," she says.

Parent Focus

To complement the *Tu Tangata Tonu* programme, parents and caregivers who suffer from a mental illness are being offered free parenting workshops.

Called *Helping Ourselves Parent Effectively* (HOPE) the workshops are held over a nine week period.

Seema Woollaston says the workshop objectives are not only to promote positive parenting practices, but also to reduce the fear of parenting, and to encourage parents to seek adequate support for themselves.

"We facilitate parents gaining an insight into the impact that having a mental illness may have on a person's capacity to parent effectively, while at the same time assisting them to develop confidence and skills"

"The workshops also include discussion regarding the importance of implementing routines and strategies that can assist parenting during times of unwellness," she said.

HOPE is open to those being seen by any Mental Health Service within ADHB, via referral to the *Tu Tangata Tonu* service.

Greenlane physiotherapist supports NZ team at World Transplant Games

As 24 of New Zealand's transplant patients took up their position at this year's 17th World Transplant Games on Australia's Gold Coast, Kirsty Johnson Cox, one of Greenlane Clinical Centre's physiotherapists, was on hand to tend to any aches and pains that came their way.

For nine days in August, Kirsty swapped her Greenlane role to be the New Zealand transplant athletes' physiotherapist.

Funded by Lung Health Auckland to attend, it was the first time the New Zealand team had had physiotherapy support.

"During the games I had over 40 contacts with the athletes treating everything from minor aches and pains to acute injuries.

"Being there to support the NZ athletes really highlighted the importance of the role of physiotherapy in the

management of the athletes," says Kirsty.

As a result, Kirsty has been asked to attend the next World Transplant Games in Gothenburg, Sweden, 2011.

"These athletes have all received a life-saving organ transplant. It was a very humbling and emotional experience to see what could be achieved," she says.

Of the 24 New Zealand athletes that attended the games there were four juniors and 20 adults – 10 of these had received heart transplants, three had received lung transplants, three kidney transplants (one with a pancreas), six liver transplants and two bone marrow transplants.

With 990 competitors from 45 countries, New Zealand came home with 30 medals, 14 gold, 12 silver, four bronze, two World Transplant Games Records and were placed 12th out of 45 in the medal table.

Ward 78

Melanie Gatfield, charge nurse on Ward 78 tells NOVA about life on the ward.

Describe Ward 78

Ward 78 is one of Auckland City Hospital's general surgery wards. While we are only one part of surgical, gastroenterology and trauma services at ADHB, we are certainly one of the more public faces of these services.

Although our specialties are diverse, they are neatly dovetailed into each other to encompass a complexity and variety of conditions which make the area both a challenging and enormously interesting place to work. These include trauma, gastroenterology, bariatric and general surgery with a focus on hepatobiliary and upper gastrointestinal field.

On ward 78 we care for a significant number of tertiary patients who come from all over New Zealand and sometimes the Pacific Islands to undergo complex surgery or diagnostic testing.

What's special about your ward?

On ward 78, we work alongside some world class surgeons and physicians. We also have a truly international staff mix which really allows us to reflect the population that we care for.

The ward is often a challenging place to work on many emotional and physical levels. One of the special things about our team is that we are always there for each other and there is a true sense of 'pulling-together' to ensure that our patients receive the highest quality of care. The resounding feedback that I get from patients is how caring our staff members are, and I am immensely proud of our team for this.

What qualities and experience would best equip someone to work on ward 78?

Ward 78 provides a great opportunity to work in an area where there is a lot of variety. The ward is both a challenging and an enormously interesting place to work, and one of the most essential attributes needed is excellent communication and teamwork skills.



Left to right: Christina Taling, Michael Osbourne, Rachael Taylor, Nicola Grant, Melanie Gatfield, Leigh Butler, Kate Sheeran, Arminda Robles, Matt Wallace.

Nurses who aspire to working in this area ideally need to have had one to two years experience, preferably with a surgical component. We also take Nursing Entry to Practice (NETP) candidates who have had experience on the ward as third year students.

As charge nurse, what's special about your role in ward 78?

I am a hands-on charge nurse and spend most of my time coordinating the ward. One of my most important goals has always been to recruit good people. The other is to ensure patients understand their plan of care and feel supported through their journey.

Although ward 78 can be a demanding place to work, it is hugely rewarding to get to the end of a particularly difficult shift, knowing that you are working alongside a strong and supportive team and that you have been able to make a difference to your patient's day.

From the professional partners

Policies and what we are doing about them...

This month I thought I would update you on the next steps following on from last year's policy project. The policy framework for any organisation is a key governance requirement, and ADHB's system to manage policies and procedures had not been reviewed for many years.

The Policy Management Project reviewed the current systems and processes and identified a number of key issues:

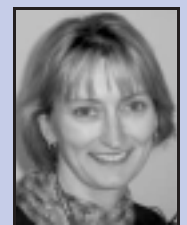
- Lack of clarity and consistency about an agreed document hierarchy for policies
- Lack of clarity on what is a policy, a procedure, or a process
- Duplication and overlap
- Accessibility of policies to all staff
- Complex, time consuming and sometimes irrelevant systems for review
- Lack of clarity in roles and responsibilities

We know that money and resources are tight, and this is a large piece of work that we need to bite off in manageable chunks.

We have committed to the Board that we will review and rationalise as many as possible of our ADHB-wide policies. We will start with the ADHB-wide clinical policies. Once this is underway we will then review the non-clinical ADHB-wide policies, a much more extensive list.

The Clinical Leaders will shortly receive communication asking them to lead a review of an identified cluster of policies. Please support them by actively and critically contributing to these processes in a timely manner.

Step two will be the pilot introduction of a revised "Application and Sign-off" form and process designed to curtail unnecessary or un-researched policy-type document development. Both pieces of work will assist in streamlining policy documentation. In combination with an updated search engine that has recently been implemented for the ADHB Intranet, it is hoped that finding the relevant ADHB-wide policy will soon be easier and quicker.



Director of Allied Health, Janice Mueller.



NOVA HEALTHY LIFESTYLE DIRECTORY

November Events



■ National Push Play and Walk to School Day

6 November

■ Sunsmart Week

8 – 14 November

■ Oceania Martial Arts

Martial Arts Tournament
ASB Lounge , Eden Park,
Reimers Ave, Kingsland
Saturday 14 November 2009

■ Diabetes Awareness Week

16 – 22 November

■ Royal Oak Market

A market of artisan products, fresh local produce, craft, art, fashion and design. There will be a selection of community stalls and volunteer projects to get involved with plus music and talks throughout the day on sustainable living and gardening practices.

CCS Disability Action,
14 Erson Ave, Royal Oak
Sunday 22 November 2009
10am - 2pm

■ White Ribbon Day

25 November



SunSmart Week November 8 to 14 - Time to "Slip, Slop, Slap and Wrap"

The skin is the body's largest organ, and its biggest job is protection. Our skin's melanin reacts to UVA rays when it comes in contact with sunlight, helping the body reflect and absorb UV light. The skin begins to tan as melanin levels rise; a tan is the first sign of skin damage. It is believed that over 80% of all damage done to the skin is done by the sun.

SLIP: into a shirt - and slip into some shade, especially between 11am and 4pm when the ultraviolet rays are most fierce.

SLOP: on some sunscreen before going outdoors.

- Put sunscreen on any skin not covered by clothes.
- Choose a sunscreen that meets the Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS2604.
- Use an SPF30+ broad-spectrum sunscreen. Wipe it on thickly at least 15 minutes before going outdoors.
- Reapply; do this 15 minutes after the first application to ensure complete coverage, and also after physical activity, swimming or towel drying.

SLAP: on a hat with a brim or a cap with flaps. More people get burned on the face and neck than any other part of the body, so a good hat is important.

WRAP: on a pair of sunglasses. Choose close fitting, wrap-around glasses that meet the Australian Standard AS1067.

From www.sunsmart.org.nz

Colourful Eating

'Eat your colours' is a catch phrase when it comes to promoting vegetables and fruit. The science behind this simple message is sound. Colours reflect the range of vitamins, antioxidants and health-protecting compounds present in vegetables and fruit. There are some well known examples such as carrots which are high in beta carotene, the orange/yellow pigment which is converted by the body to vitamin A. Tomatoes (particularly canned tomatoes and tomato puree/paste) are high in lycopene, the red pigment in fruit and vegetables. Both beta carotene and lycopene are associated with a lower risk of certain types of cancer. One colour that can be more difficult to fit into our food choices is purple; for some reason sources never seem as obvious as white (potato, banana), green (peas, cabbage, lettuce), orange (carrots, pumpkin, oranges), red (tomatoes – canned and fresh). So here is recipe using red cabbage and red onion, the names do not reflect the wonderful bright purple colour of these vegetables and so to this end we have renamed the salad recipe below.

Crunchy purple salad

- 3 cups finely shredded red cabbage
- 1 medium red onion
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1 green apple sliced

Dressing

- 1 Tbsp oil or 2 Tbsp light sour cream
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp prepared horseradish sauce

Place cabbage, onion, raisins and apples in a large bowl. Blend the dressing together and pour over salad, then toss together.



CELEBRATION WEEK - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, NOVEMBER 2009

Every Day	All day	Research at ADHB	ACH Level 5 Atrium & SSH Level 2 Atrium
Every Day	All day	Improving Quality of Care - See posters in CEC	CEC Reception
Tues – Wed – Thurs	12.30pm – 1.00pm	Art Tour - See tour programme below	Meet at ACH Level 5 Reception
Monday 16th	11.45am - 3.00pm	ADHB Online Learning Symposium – Riding the Wave	CEC Auditorium
Monday 16th	4.00pm - 5.30pm	ADHB Recognition Awards*	CEC Auditorium
Tuesday 17th	10.00am - 1.00pm	Celebrating Pacific Achievement	CEC A+ Trust Room
Tuesday 17th	10.30am - 12.00pm	Volunteers and Chaplains Thank You*	CEC Auditorium
Tuesday 17th	12.30pm - 1.00pm	Art Tour: Photographic and Paremoro Art Komiti works	Meet at ACH Level 5 Reception
Tuesday 17th	1.00pm - 2.00pm	NOVA Awards	CEC Auditorium
Wednesday 18th	9.30am – 1.00pm	2009 Community and Primary Health Innovation Award	CEC A+ Trust Room
Wednesday 18th	12.30pm - 1.00pm	Art Tour: NICU Art	Meet at ACH Level 5 Reception
Thursday 19th	10.00am - 1.00pm	Recognising Our Retired Doctors* "Looking forwards and backwards" Keynote address: Dr Richard Frith	CEC Neurology Room
Thursday 19th	12.00pm - 1.00pm	Medical Grand Round Young Investigator Award (research presentations) & House Officer Teacher Awards	CEC Auditorium
Thursday 19th	12.30pm - 1.00pm	Art Tour: New Works and Art on Loan	Meet at ACH Level 5 Reception
Thursday 19th	2.00pm - 3.30pm	Nursing and Midwifery Celebration of Achievements	CEC Auditorium
Thursday 19th	6.30pm - 9.00pm	GP Grand Round* "Food Allergy" Dr Rohan Ameratunga "Neurology for GPs" Dr David Hutchinson	CEC Auditorium
Friday 20th	9.30am – 11.00am	Allied Health Grand Round & Presentation of Annual Allied Health Awards	CEC Auditorium
Friday 20th	12.00pm – 1.30pm	Hats off for Hand Hygiene – Semi Finalists, Ward Walkabout!	ACH & SSH
Friday 20th	12.30pm - 1.30pm	Management Grand Round	CEC A+ Trust Room
Friday 20th	3.00pm onwards	Hats off for Hand Hygiene – Winners Announcement & Presentation	ACH Level 5 Reception

* = invitation KEY: CEC = Clinical Education Centre ACH = Auckland City Hospital SSH = Starship Hospital

There is no Greet and Treat during Celebration Week this year. Instead, there will be a staff event closer to Christmas.

ORBIT WELCOME TO THE TRAVEL REMEDY

Christchurch – The Garden City

Voted the world's best garden city, Christchurch is flanked by harbours to the south, plains and mountains to the north and west, and the Pacific Ocean to the east. This diverse landscape means lots of options for visitors.

- Be spoiled for choice at one of Canterbury's many ski areas
- Board a vintage tram for a city tour
- Rise high on a gondola for 360 degree views of the harbour, ocean, plains and alps
- Experience the world's best Antarctic attraction



- Immerse yourself in one of the stunning art galleries or live theatres
- Learn the city's heritage on a punt ride along the Avon River
- Visit museums and historic parks, showcasing Maori, colonial, Antarctic, military aviation and transport history
- Explore a crater harbour on a nature cruise
- View intriguing wild species at Orana Park

From the peaceful tranquility of Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens to the bustle of the city centre, enjoy the wonderful variety of Christchurch at your leisure.

Monthly Competition

The prize for this month will be one night's accommodation at any Ridges New Zealand Hotel.

All Rydges Hotels are perfectly situated in the heart of the city – Auckland, Christchurch, Rotorua and Queenstown. Auckland, Christchurch and Queenstown offering contemporary accommodation with Rotorua offering guests the city's largest accommodation options, all with a myriad of facilities and services.

Question:

What's the percentage of liver biopsies which will be replaced by a scan from the new Fibroscan machine?

To enter, simply answer this month's question and send your entry to novan@adhb.govt.nz, subject line 'monthly competition', or mail to the Communications department, Level 1, Building 10, Greenlane Clinical Centre. Entries must be received by 30 November 2009. *One entry per person.*

Grand Prize

Air New Zealand will provide two economy class tickets to the Pacific Islands – Samoa, Tonga, Fiji or Rarotonga for the Grand Prize for Nova for 2009. There may be peak periods when seats are not available i.e. Christmas.

This is the final letter in the Grand Prize competition. To enter please take all the letters you have collected for the year and arrange them into a word or phrase. Then please send your answer to novan@adhb.govt.nz, subject line 'grand prize' or mail to the Communications department, Level 1, Building 10, Greenlane Clinical Centre. Entries must be received by 30 November 2009. One entry per person. Back copies of Nova are available on the intranet.

November Grand Prize letter: ○

Conditions of entry: Tickets are not exchangeable for cash; tickets will not attract air points; tickets are not upgradeable; winner must be an employee of ADHB (show employee number) at the time of the prize draw. Valid until 30 June 2010. Travel is not permitted 20 Dec 2009 – 15 January 2010.



ACH stroke team recruit most patients to world's largest stroke trial

The team at Auckland City Hospital's stroke unit are celebrating the news that they have recruited the most patients onto the world's largest stroke rehabilitation trial.

As New Zealand's only stroke unit taking part in the worldwide trial, the ACH stroke team recruited 49 patients onto the trial between May 2008 and July 2009.

More than 18 hospitals in Australia, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Malaysia and Singapore are participating in the worldwide trial, which tests whether very early rehabilitation delivered by physiotherapy and nursing staff is better than current standard care.

In recognition of their efforts the stroke team was awarded with a specialist wheelchair for use with stroke patients. The chair allows patients to get out of bed early, often when they still need significant postural support.

Left to right: Margery Bertulfo (Blinded Assessor), Sheela Tharakan (AVERT Nurse Leader), Cecille Vilaluz (AVERT Nurse), Anna McRae (Main Investigator), Linda Harvey-Fitzgerald (AVERT Physiotherapist), Kerryn Smith (AVERT Physiotherapist). Kneeling by chair: William Foster (AVERT assistant).



Walking 'n' Talking!



ADHB's Organ Donation New Zealand (ODNZ) organised a successful national event last month to raise awareness for organ donation and encourage people to share their wishes about organ donation with loved ones.

The inaugural Walk 'n' Talk event was held on 4 October at Mount Maunganui to coincide with World Day of Organ Donation. More than 400 people took part in the event which saw donor families, transplant recipients, well-known sports people and local dignitaries take part.

The Walk 'n' Talk event provided a special occasion for many who congregated at the peak of Mount Maunganui to remember donors and their families who have given the gift of life.

Did you know?

The donor co-ordination service was established in 1987 at the time when heart transplantation commenced at Green Lane Hospital. Today this national service, known as Organ Donation New Zealand, is based at Greenlane Clinical Centre.

Connecting Neighbourhood Summit

On 1 October ADHB hosted the Connecting Neighbourhood Summit for the Pacific community. The goals of the summit were to celebrate, affirm and plan. The programme profiled ADHB Pacific Health initiatives from the primary providers. There were also activities and workshops for Pacific people to contribute to the ADHB District Strategic Plan.

"The summit offered ADHB a chance to really listen to what the Pacific community is saying. Now we need to show we can put this into action through mechanisms like the Strategic Plan," says Hilda Faasalele, General Manager, Pacific Health.

However as the day unfolded so did the news of the tsunami in Samoa and Tonga. Support was offered to those who were affected but all attendees wanted to continue working.

"The tsunami has had a tremendous impact on us all. I was impressed by the commitment shown by those at the summit – it is evidence of how much the Pacific community really want to engage with ADHB. We are a resilient people and this event illustrated that in everyone's willingness to keep going and do what needed to be done," says Hilda.



ADHB's new linear accelerator

A brand new state of the art linear accelerator, which provides the latest technology in radiation treatment for cancer patients, was delivered on 1 October 2009. The 10 tonne, four metre long linear accelerator was lowered by crane through the roof of building eight at ACH. The new machine will replace a 12 year old accelerator and comes with new technology which will increase the probability of eradicating tumours and will also have the benefit of reducing unwanted side effects.

Contacting
NOVA

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Copy needs to be received a month prior to publication. Please send text in MSWord and photos as high-quality jpeg.

