

Media Response

From: Jill Stringer, Communications Advisor

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Subject: Masterton Hospital Site Redevelopment project underway

The Masterton Hospital Redevelopment Project was officially launched last week, with all the key players confirmed. The Project Team, which includes a health architect, health planner, quantity surveyor, clinical and process change manager, project manager, electrical engineer, mechanical engineer, and structural engineer, has commenced master planning. The current target is to complete master planning by the end of March 2004 and present this to the Board of the Wairarapa DHB on 6 April 2004 for approval.

“These are very exciting times for the Wairarapa DHB”, says CEO David Meates. “The next 4 months will be the most crucial yet, as we set up the project. Once the masterplan is completed, we move into the tendering and construction phase. At the same time, the change management process will be able to implement and transfer the new model of care to the new and refurbished facility.”

With the backdrop of photos from the past and present, CEO David Meates thanked staff for all their hard work in getting the project off the ground – and stressed that this is just the beginning. “My key message for this project is – get involved”, he said. “The really hard part is in the planning, and that is where we need all staff to be informed and involved.”

There are three key groups involved in masterplanning – the project team, the user groups, and the ‘models of care’ group.

“Changing our model of care is as significant as changing our physical surroundings,” says Noeleen Hill, Clinical and Process Change Manager. “For the hospital, this means many things – like building on our history of GP involvement in secondary care, and learning to be more responsive to the needs of those providing primary care. It means acknowledging the significance of all the other people involved in the health experience of a patient or client and accommodating their input in the secondary setting.”

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