

Media Release

From: Jill Stringer, Communications Advisor

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Subject: Free Youth Health clinic opens

A new free health service for young people in the South Wairarapa will be officially launched at lunch time today. Well-known nurse, Janine Vollebregt, will run the all-day weekly clinic. The Wairarapa Primary Health Care Nurses Group, who won \$550,000 of Ministry of Health Innovations funding last year funds it, with support from the DHB.

“This is a fantastic collaborative project, which has the chance of making a real difference for people, in terms of their access to service, and in the co-ordination of health services for people needing input from several sources,” says Helen Pocknall, Director of Nursing for the Wairarapa District Health Board. “This is just the beginning. The PHCNG project crosses traditional boundaries between the hospital and the community, and between disciplines involved in health care in the community.”

The PHCNG project involves setting up nurse-led clinics in a variety of locations, and this Greytown clinic is the first. The links between the nurses, GPs, and other allied health service providers are an important feature of the project.

“Many young people do not access the health services they need, for a variety of reasons,” says clinic nurse Janine. “This clinic will be informal, confidential and free – anyone aged between 12 and 24 can just drop in. We can offer a range of services, including health assessments, pregnancy testing and education, nutritional advice and weight monitoring, referrals – for example to a GP or Choice Health, sexual health services, and we can also access interagency support if needed. Counselling services are also available.”

“Our research shows that many young people in the Wairarapa cannot or do not access the health services they may need, particularly in the South Wairarapa,” says Wairarapa DHB CEO, David Meates. “This initiative will test the real or perceived barriers to accessing services, and has the potential to make a real difference for young people who may not consider using other points of entry to health services.”

The free Youth Health Clinic will run from the Greytown Outpatients Clinic (Buchanan House) in East Street every Friday from 8.30am to 4pm.

Ends

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