

Media Release

From: Jill Stringer, Communications Advisor

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Subject: ED spends \$5,000 in 12 months on replacing missing equipment

Rona Bramwell, Emergency nurse at Masterton Hospital is asking the public if they have seen anything looking like the equipment in the picture. From left to right, they are cardiac pacing wires (replacement cost around \$500), a thermoscan (\$750), and eye burr (\$600) and an otoscope with ear and eye attachments (around \$1,000).

“This stuff you can see is all replacements for gear which has ‘walked’ from the Emergency department over the last 18 months,” says Rona. “We hate having to use money we want to spend on new diagnostic equipment on replacing missing items. We’ve had to replace the otoscope three times, and buy two thermoscans. I have no idea what anyone would want with this equipment. It’s of little use anywhere but in the emergency department, and there is no market for it second hand. Do people just take it because it looks different, I wonder? Or is it kids playing? Do people realize how much it costs to replace? It’s their money we’re using, after all.”

Anyone who recognises any of the above equipment can phone 946 9800 extension 4700, and it can be picked up with absolutely no questions asked. Or just deliver it to reception in a paper bag.

“I really hope it hasn’t ended up at the dump, because someone is too embarrassed or doesn’t know what to do with it,” says Rona. “We don’t care where it’s been – we just want it back”.

Ends

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Attached: Picture of Rona with replacement equipment

