

Media Release

From: Jan McLaren, Communications Advisor

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Subject: Nursing staffing

Wairarapa DHB is actively recruiting nursing staff. Currently there are 6.8 full-time equivalent hospital nursing vacancies which is putting pressure on existing nursing staff. This is a problem many DHBs share, especially in the winter when there are high levels of staff illness and increased numbers of patients. Several staff have also taken parental leave recently and this compounds the problem. As a result workloads have been heavy and some elective surgery has been cancelled so nurses can cope with the increase in the number of acute patient admissions.

"Staff have been doing a wonderful job trying to minimise the impact staff shortages have on patients," CEO David Meates says. "They are working really hard and we value their contribution."

The DHB is presently advertising for nurses throughout New Zealand and overseas.

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