

## Press Release: 18 January 2017

### What being an RMO in Wairarapa looks like:

- RMOs in Wairarapa work approximately 54 hours per week
- Most shifts are of 8-10 hours duration
- Approximately once per fortnight an RMO is rostered on a 'long' day from 8am until 10pm
- Free quality accommodation is provided to any out of town RMOs, mostly on the hospital campus, or otherwise within a very short distance of the hospital. No RMO should drive far after their long day, and to do so would be irresponsible.
- Free meals are provided for RMOs during their shift

All health and safety issues raised by the union have been agreed by the DHBs. DHBs throughout the country want to ensure an efficient change process is in place to introduce the new rosters, consistent with other health worker contracts.

Wairarapa DHB currently employs 13 RMOs, and employs relieving junior doctors as required, with one extra permanent position being added this year. Of the RMOs currently at Wairarapa DHB, all 13 are union members and 11 have chosen to strike.

The strike is going as planned, with a very busy hospital but staff managing well. One patient was flown to a neighbouring DHB, but this was decided as a precaution due to the impending bad weather, not as a result of the strike.

Wairarapa DHB leads will continue strike management meetings daily, and debrief on Friday at the conclusion of the strike. National DHB Chief Executives will meet in person on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, and negotiations in the meantime continue via daily teleconference.

Wairarapa DHB Chief Executive, Adri Isbister, is grateful for the support of all involved in the strike and for the understanding and patience of the Wairarapa community.

“We continue to ask that Wairarapa people keep ED free for emergencies and, unless it is urgent, you see you GP or call Healthline for advice on 0800 611 116. We do expect there will be increased delays in ED during the strike week, and for patients presenting with non-urgent symptoms it may be an unnecessary wait.”

ENDS

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