

## Press Release

20 June 2018

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Today the nurses union, NZNO, issued a national strike notice to all DHBs that its members will strike for 24 hours from 7am on Thursday 5 July until 7am on Friday 6 July, in support of their wage claims.

“Wairarapa District Health Board is preparing to defer all elective services provided at Wairarapa Hospital, and reduce the level of services provided to enable us to cope with the strike action,” said Adri Isbister, Chief Executive.

“We expect to maintain only the very minimum of services during the strike, and all outpatient clinics will be closed,” Ms Isbister said. “We have to carefully manage the services we can provide, remembering our neighbouring DHBs will be equally affected.”

Ms Isbister said preparations have already been initiated and some services, such as elective surgery, would have to close well before the strike date to ensure the number of patients in the hospital when the strike begins is as low as possible. “Our number one priority is patient safety,” she said.

Services which will remain open will be:

- Emergency Department
- Paediatric inpatient ward
- Acute surgery
- High dependency units
- Some adult inpatient services
- Maternity

Services which will be closed will be:

- Outpatient Clinics
- Elective surgery
- Day Procedures unit

- Rehabilitation Unit (limited services)

People with surgery or outpatients appointments that are affected will be directly contacted.

Community nursing services will have limited cover. Child and Adolescent Mental Health will operate as normal, and Adult Mental Health will not be booking routine appointments that day, but will be available for crisis and respite support, as well as for after-hours services.

“Wairarapa DHB has a deep respect for our nurses, healthcare assistants and midwives. They are a highly valued part of our workforce, committed to patient care,” said Ms Isibister.

“We respect their right to take industrial action and we know it is not a decision made lightly. We are committed to negotiating in good faith and we still hope for a resolution that works for all parties.”

ENDS

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