

# Media release

23 November 2018

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## Petty vandalism puts DHB services at risk

DHB management are frustrated by the ongoing destructive behaviour of a team of youths, who last night caused significant damage to many of the service vehicles.

Security video footage captured a group of people that had scaled a building and thrown broken glass window panes and bottles at the DHB pool cars, damaging many of them. This will disrupt clinical staff who will need the vehicles to do rounds in the community.

“It’s not just a vehicle, it’s a whole service that is affected by the actions of a few bored kids,” said Executive Leader Operations, Kieran McCann.

“DHB dollars are provided for healthcare not unnecessary vehicle upkeep, and the downtime this sort of behaviour causes is expensive and irritating, to say the least. But it’s the patients that are the real victims here - the people waiting at home for staff to come and provide their care,” he said.

“Our services take specialised care out to the people that need it, when they need it, in their own home. Damaging vehicles is a serious matter, but what’s even more serious is that a patient’s access to the treatment they need may be affected.”

“That is a much bigger issue altogether,” he said. “And perhaps not one the kids bothered to consider.”

The DHB is working with the police to manage the incident.

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