

## Media statement

### Wairarapa DHB seismic strengthening

29/3/2019

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#### **The seismic strengthening work at Wairarapa Hospital is ahead of schedule and getting the thumbs up from engineers**

The first phase of work to address the insufficient restraint of services in the hospital ceiling is all but complete, with 97 of 101 plant units now sufficiently braced.

Concerns were raised last year when early engineering assessment reports indicated the restraint of plant and services in the hospital ceiling would not meet seismic standards.

Holmes Construction has been carrying out the installation of the improved strengthening designs over the past six months, and an engineers' status update this week has indicated a high degree of comfort in the work that has been undertaken.

A letter from LGE Consulting Structural & Civil Engineers confirmed that "the majority (96%) of the potential significant life safety hazard presented by the ceiling space plant units has now been mitigated."

Stage two work will begin on the remaining four ceiling units next week and it is likely to continue through until late May.

Of these four units, three are at the Medical Surgical Ward reception area and one is at Theatres. Due to the size and location of these units, a specific design and a more staged construction approach is required, and a tunnel structure and hoardings will be built to allow corridor access while work is being carried out above.

Visitors to the hospital will still be able to access all wards. No impact to the public or staff is expected, other than some redirecting of foot traffic through certain areas while the builders erect the tunnel.

"Remediation undertaken to date has rolled out better even than planned," says Wairarapa DHB communications manager, Anna Cardno. "The Holmes Construction team have been working some evenings, when it has been better for our services, and they have kept ahead of schedule."

"Staff have been extremely tolerant and, for the large part, the work has been going on very much in the background."

"We expect the temporary ceiling structure required for stage two will pose little disruption, and it is exciting to be looking to the end of the services remediation," Anna said.

The next step in the Wairarapa Hospital seismic story is a detailed look at the primary and connected structures.

“The preliminary reports we received last year indicated potential risk related to the structures and services in the ceiling, and we got onto addressing those immediately. Now that we are nearing completion of that piece of work, we will require a more detailed look at the building itself and its connected structures.”

“We’d like to take the opportunity to thank all the project team involved and our hospital staff, for their considerable patience,” Anna said. “We are looking forward to the engineer’s sign off of the remediation work in June, all going to plan.”

For more information:

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