

Letter to the editor

4 June 2019

Dear Sir

I respond to Pam Graham's editorial, Saturday 1st June, 'Memo to health administrators: Walk the talk.' I am bemused that Ms Graham required a "tip," given public invitations to the earlier workshops and surveys were widely advertised, including in your own paper. We do not have a "self-entitled workforce." We have over 700 hardworking, committed staff who deserve investing in. Both our patient-facing and enabling staff do wonderful work in a constrained environment, and they give their all. Working with them to provide the tools they need is why we have engaged Tim Keogh of April Strategy.

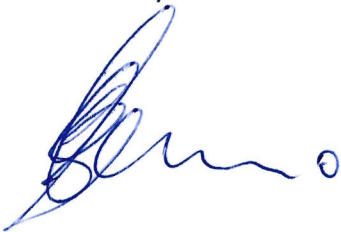
Like all DHBs we are in deficit, yes. However Wairarapa DHB is extremely fortunate to be supported by a donated funding stream, a bequest which specifically enables us to provide education and development opportunities for our team. Our work with Tim Keogh has been achievable through this donated funding package.

The workshops and surveys involved over 1,200 contacts with patients, their whānau, staff and community partners. At a cost of \$160,000, that makes an investment of less than \$140 per person. Donated. And, to quote just one of the staff *"I commend the DHB for taking on this initiative to give staff not only a voice, but the opportunity to actively partake in positive change in our community's healthcare."*

We want to make our health system in Wairarapa an even a better place to work, and to be cared for, and evidence shows that increasing staff engagement will improve patient outcomes.

We must consider Wairarapa's aging population, complex health needs, and inequity. April Strategy is providing us with the analysis we need to help us prioritise actions which will have the most benefit for our community.

Sincerely



Craig Climo
Interim Chief Executive
Wairarapa District Health Board