

## Media response

### **Wairarapa DHB forging ahead to establish distributed clinical leadership**

21 August 2019

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Survey results released this week by the Salaried Medical Specialists union (ASMS) indicated that Wairarapa DHB was not committed to distributed clinical leadership, but that is changing says Chief Medical Officer, Dr Shawn Sturland.

New to the CMO role, Dr Sturland joined the DHB in July and his first recommendation was to address the implementation of distributed clinical leadership – a structure which allows for improved escalation of risk, better strategic development and governance.

A draft proposal was agreed by the board’s Finance and Risk Advisory Committee this month and, before the ASMS report was even released, implementation work was underway.

“An improved clinical leadership structure is a key priority for us, and we have a fully supportive executive team,” said Dr Sturland.

“With a clear endorsement to proceed, we have engaged with ASMS and our clinicians and are working towards building a structure that better supports our staff and, consequently, our patients.”

“All three parties; our management team, our clinicians and ASMS; are committed to this work and we are looking forward to seeing the benefits of introducing clear clinical leadership systems.”

Recently appointed Chief Executive, Dale Oliff, is equally optimistic.

“With the introduction of a clearly defined clinical leadership structure, we can better support our medical team in the work they do, and ultimately improve our service for the community,” she said.

“It is important that the organisation engages as a team. Our staff expect and deserve excellent leadership, and our community will benefit from the processes we are implementing,” Dale said.

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