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Wairarapa DHB plans for a refreshed, people-focused health service

Wairarapa District Health Board (DHB) is plotting its course for the years ahead in order to provide the best care possible for the Wairarapa community. Change is expected and opportunities abound, according to Chief Executive, Dale Oliff.

“Our duty to our community is always to provide timely, quality care,” Oliff says. “We have been very clear that in order to serve our community in the best possible way, we must make some changes.”

“Our population is growing, our resources are under pressure, and across the health system our workforce is challenged. And none of these things are new to us. We have been communicating the issues for some time. What is new, is the way in which we aim to manage these constraints in order to develop a better approach to care that is targeted to meet our needs.”

In its published report *Direction for health services in Wairarapa*, put to the board in March, the DHB says it is looking across the whole of the healthcare system with a view to effecting a “major shift in the way we do things.”

“No good organisation stands still, and our changing environment demands we flex and adapt to the needs of our population,” Oliff explains. “We are a relatively small region, with good relationships across the services and the ability to be nimble. These are excellent advantages. Building a sustainable, equitable healthcare model is not just desirable, it is pivotal.”

“If we don’t make changes now, the challenges will only get tougher,” Oliff said. “This is why a lot of work has gone into identifying the key areas of activity where we need to focus first.”

“We want a responsive, effective, equitable and sustainable health system that achieves outcomes for our people. To get there, we have a lot of work to do, and it has to start now.”

The DHB has been meeting with healthcare providers and community leaders, and says the appetite for change is strong.

“Our population is likely to increase by 16 percent in twenty years and we need to adapt now in order to meet not just our current demands, but also tomorrow’s needs, as well as focus on a more effective service that improves outcomes for our people.”

“We have a lot of work to do, and it is an exciting time ahead,” said Oliff. “I am looking forward to bringing the Wairarapa community along on the journey.”

Wairarapa DHB is committed to open communication and will be keeping the community informed of issues of interest as they arise. Queries, comments and concerns are invited by email to communications@wairarapa.dhb.org.nz

Ends.

For more information:

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