

Media release

23 July 2020

Clinical workforce - DHB increases surgical capability

Workforce challenges have been a key priority for the DHB for some time but Chief Executive, Dale Oliff, is pleased to advise some considerable recruitment success.

In February, we outlined significant gaps in our surgical team. Since then, we have been working hard to fill positions and a number of appointments have recently been made.

General surgery

We are pleased to have a locum working with us who is interested in taking up a permanent General Surgeon role. An offer is out for a further General Surgeon, and we have a full complement of locum cover.

Orthopaedics

A permanent Orthopaedic Surgeon is now working with us, and two further offers have been made. One of those has been accepted and the other is being considered. Currently overseas, the surgeons will be starting with us as soon as immigration and medical council processes are completed.

Anaesthetics

A locum Anaesthetist starts with us in September, an offer for a permanent Anaesthetist is being drafted, and we are currently interviewing two others for permanent positions.

Physician

One permanent offer has been made and is being considered.

Psychiatry

Gaps continue in psychiatry with a 0.6 full time equivalent (FTE) position vacant in child and adolescent mental health, and 2.8 FTE in the adult service. Recruitment is ongoing and locum placements are covering gaps in the meantime.

Recruitment can be difficult in the smaller district health boards, but Wairarapa is a great place to live and work and we are proud of what we can offer. We always make sure to celebrate all the advantages of the region as well as the benefits of working in our team when we go to market to fill vacancies.

ENDS – Please attribute to Dale Oliff, Chief Executive Wairarapa District Health Board

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