



**craig's corner**

The priorities for Waikato DHB in 2009 are:

- To improve the health of its population
- to reduce or eliminate health inequalities between segments of the population.

In addition my seven priorities are:

- sustainable long-term financial performance
- focus on preventing and managing cardiovascular diseases/strokes, type two diabetes and cancers

- process improvement
- workforce development and change
- justifying, planning, designing and then monitoring ongoing affordability of campus redevelopment
- long-term clinically sustainable rural services
- regional collaboration which includes producing a regional clinical services plan.

• Craig Climo is Waikato DHB's chief executive.

## New NICU and Delivery Suite open

Waikato Hospital's new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Delivery Suite are officially open. Work on both these new areas began in 2007.

Access to the new NICU is through the old area on Level B1 Elizabeth Rothwell Building.

Although this marks the end of the Delivery Suite project, work on NICU will now move into the old unit to create parent rooms and office space.



Alastair Haslam opens delivery suite.



Tony Cull opens NICU.

## Outstanding elective results

At last some great news! Remember the health targets? We are officially outstanding for quarter two elective services.

Since August 2008, we've been compliant at a DHB level in all elective services.

However, we can never take our eyes off the ball.

This year will see a major focus on improving the quality and safety of our services. Together with Sue Hayward (director of nursing and midwifery) and Tom Watson (chief medical advisor), I am launching a Patient Safety First campaign.

The campaign focuses on some key performance measures to reduce the number of preventable errors and resultant patient harm.

Many errors are preventable and caused by system issues so we are very keen to focus on making this a safer place for everyone.

With the release of serious and sentinel events it is important to note that when looking at our overall number, we treated 67,566 inpatients and 316,830 outpatients in the 2007/08 year.

Patient falls and medication errors feature in our incidents and while we have a good culture of incident reporting we are keen to know even more about any near misses to ensure we can investigate and remedy things.

"We will soon launch another survey around patient safety. There will be more information closer to the time. It will have a focus on patient safety and how staff enhance this. Its purpose is to identify patient/client safety issues so that we can make a concerted effort to tackle them. This is timely following the release of serious and sentinel events. There will be a prize for the service/department or area that submits the biggest percentage of entries - so watch out for more on this."



JAN ADAMS



Health Waikato aims to provide high quality care for our patients. However incidents regularly occur which harm our patients and our staff.

Read the full Patient Safety at Health Waikato campaign document at:

[www.waikatodhb.govt.nz](http://www.waikatodhb.govt.nz)

HEALTH WAIKATO  
PATIENT SAFETY  
at Health Waikato



## Painless alternative with liver ultrasound at Waikato Hospital

Waikato Hospital is the first hospital in New Zealand to install an ultrasound technique that identifies potentially fatal liver disease and alleviates the need for painful biopsies.

The Fibroscan provides a painless, non-invasive alternative to a needle biopsy by measuring the liver with ultrasound waves and evaluating progression of the disease.

Waikato Hospital's Gastroenterology Unit took possession of the \$200,000 machine last week and is already using it on patients. It is in wide use overseas but never before in New Zealand.

Clinical director of gastroenterology Dr Frank Weilert said the procedure will reduce the number of liver biopsies by 50-60 per cent at Waikato Hospital.

"Obtaining liver tissue by a needle biopsy can be a very painful procedure resulting in bleeding, perforation of other organs, even hospital admission and rarely death. This has previously been the only option to assess the liver but the Fibroscan allows us to measure liver stiffness without invasive action. It will also allow us to map progress of liver disease better," he said.



Frank Weilert with the new Fibroscan.

## The Hospital Revue - our entertainment extravaganza is back!

This year the hospital revue *In Flagrante Delicto* (caught in the act) will be on stage, 23 - 26 September. Lifeline and the Waikato Family Centre are the charities we are supporting this year.

A call will go out in the next few months for

groups to come forward with their skits.

A skit can be many things, including a comedy act, singing, dancing, or cultural display. So come on and put all your creative talents and team building focus into being *In Flagrante Delicto*!

## Work-Life staff survey

A big thank you to all those who completed the Work-Life staff survey. The deadline for this is Friday (although late survey responses will still be accepted this week if you get it in now).

More than 1000 staff responded – that's nearly 20 per cent of all staff so we're pleased with this.

This important survey will give the Waikato DHB a clear steer of where we are now how you feel about your work, what demands you have at work and outside work, and what impact that has on you.

## Do you requisition goods or services?

If so, you need to be aware of a new process involving emailed alerts.

The alerts will happen when Accounts Payable receives an invoice and is waiting on your action to authorise payment. These are goods or services requisitioned with a purchase order but not receipted. Often this is because the item was delivered direct to your area rather than receipted through Bulk Store, or because it was a service rather than a product.

You will receive an emailed reminder (known as an electronic Qty Rec Alert or "cutie" for short).

Please respond with information to Accounts Payable promptly. This system replaces the old paper-based process of photocopied invoices of unpaid items for you to sign off.

## New partnership with Kimihia School

The Media and Communications team sealed a healthy relationship with Huntly's Kimihia School last week.

Viscom designed the 'Kimihia Kid' for the school, a playful role model for Kimihia students to aspire to be.

The Kimihia Kid has six key qualities, as dreamed up by the entire school community; one of which is being a happy and healthy person, thus the reason Waikato DHB got on board.

In return for the Kimihia Kid's creation and other materials, Waikato DHB is able to spread key health messages into a high priority school.

The Kimihia Kid was launched at the school's first full assembly on Friday, 13 February, and was a huge hit with the students. Full story on [www.waikatodhb.govt.nz](http://www.waikatodhb.govt.nz)



## Further news about the nursing and midwifery project

The Nursing and Midwifery project steering committee met last week, finalised the Statement of Work and welcomed Nurses Organisation members Angela Neil and Georgi Marchioni to the group. For clarification the project scope includes all nursing roles reporting in to the Group Manager Waikato Hospital and excludes Mental Health, Rural and Community Health and Older Persons and Rehabilitation Services.

Contact Haidee Davis 021 359 640, Veronica White PwC 021 401 050 or Sarah Bate PwC 021 273 1496 if you need more details or have any questions.

## Thames Hospital official opening ceremony

Health minister Tony Ryall and DHB deputy chair Sally Christie will officially open Thames Hospital's new Clinical Centre and Inpatient Unit at a special ceremony on Friday.

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