

# Hon Tony Ryall

Minister of Health



30 September 2009

Media Statement

## More elective surgery for Waikato patients

The Waikato District Health Board has performed elective surgery on a record number of people in the 2008/09 year\*, with more than 11,400 patients treated.

Health Minister Tony Ryall says, "That is an increase of more than 1260 patients on the previous year."

"From 9,202 operations in 2003/04, the numbers actually dropped to 8,435 in 2004/05.

"This Government has made elective surgery a priority, and on the whole DHBs have responded very well. But the Government expects further improvements in the next year."

Nationally, in the 2008/09 year we have seen an increase in elective surgery eight times the average annual increase of the previous government. And the largest increase came in the six months from January to June 09 under National."

"We are starting to make up ground that has been lost over the last 8 years," Mr Ryall said.

"This result in part shows what can be achieved with a consistent and clear focus by the Government," concluded Tony Ryall.

There are a number of pressures on future elective surgery delivery including the impact of swine flu.

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\* since 2000/1