

Tomorrow (Friday) is a significant one for Health Waikato as we formally bless the Smith Building prior to its handover for demolition.

Smith Building has been the medical block for 48 years and holds many memories for our staff, patients and their families.

The journey to this point has involved huge amounts of work for a small group of people and I take this opportunity to note my thanks and sincere appreciation for their hard work, focus and commitment to delivering this project on budget and on time.

Ros Morell from the Programme Management Office and Kevin Bardsley (Property and Infrastructure) in particular managed the work, the ward moves, the alterations, upgrades, the contractors and our own staff and we would certainly not be where we are today without them.

Graham Dudfield also played a major part, as have the charge nurse managers of the decanted wards. Thank you.

Our staff and patients accepted with good grace the many pressures we placed on them as we decanted and moved wards, worked with noise and dust, changed access routes and built the new staircase to Menzies Building.

There will be few clinical and support areas unaffected by this programme of works. I will mention the attendants, cleaners, kitchen and inventory staff but I know there are more and I continue to be amazed at the way we all cope with these challenges.

Tomorrow marks the end of an era of Smith Building as a place of care. Thank you all for the part you played, whether small or large, in helping us get to this point. Like many of you, I'm looking forward to a slightly less chaotic campus over the next 12 months with the openings of the new Older Persons and Rehabilitation Building and stages two and three of the Meade Clinical Centre.

For the moment let us reflect on a job well done, under pressure, in time and on budget.

Jan Adams
Chief operating officer