



TPHO's Fortnightly Newsletter, Issue 10, 30 May 2007

GP Fees NZ Survey Shows Drop in Free Care to Under-Sixes

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The latest nationwide survey of 334 doctors' practices by Consumer Magazine shows a drop in those offering free care to under-sixes.



In 2005, 76 percent of the practices we surveyed charged nothing to see a child under six. Two years later, that's fallen to 67 percent. But most (90 percent) have kept charges for this age group low, at \$10 or less. The maximum a parent can expect to pay is \$28: this was at a practice in Auckland.

The National coalition Government in the 1990s promised free health care for the under-sixes. But general practitioners claim there was never a formal agreement, only a commitment between them and the Government to try to provide that free care. It was part of a deal that included extra funding for kids.

The Ministry of Health agrees there is no contractual or legislative requirement that stops GPs from charging for this age group. It says, while there has never been nationwide free healthcare for children under six, the number of practices that offer it has stabilised at around two-thirds. Under current funding arrangements, PHOs receive about \$39 per visit for children under six.

New Zealand Medical Association GP Spokesperson Dr Peter Foley says he's surprised that "free" health care for the under-sixes lasted so long.

"There's no way that practices charging nothing or next to nothing for the under-sixes have been meeting the true cost. Other patients have clearly been covering the shortfall," he says.

Region	Fees, U-6s midpoint	Fees, Highest
Auckland(81)	\$0	\$28
Hamilton(6)	\$5	\$7
Tauranga(17)	\$0	\$10
Wellington(40)	\$5	\$18
N. Island Provincial(98)	\$0	\$10
Christchurch(29)	\$5	\$17
Dunedin(12)	\$0	\$12
S. Island Provincial(51)	\$0	\$16

Guide Region numbers in brackets are the number of PHO practices that responded to our survey. Fees are for enrolled patients without a Community Services Card.

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For more information on Turanganui PHO GP Practice Fees and Charges visit [GP Fees and Charges](#)

Celebration Breakfast for Aukati Kaipapa Whanau TH, E



Breakfast for one could tomorrow be breakfast for 100, says Tom Smith, a member of the Turanga Health smoking cessation team

To honour World Smokefree Day tomorrow, Turanga Health is hosting a Celebration Breakfast for whanau taking part in its quit smoking programme Aukati Kaipapa.

World Smokefree Day is held every year on May 31 and provides an opportunity for smokefree auahi kore promoters and advocates to spread the smokefree message in their region. "Smokefree: It's About Us" is this year's slogan.

"At Turanga Health we want to acknowledge the massive achievement and accomplishments of whanau who have become, or are thinking of becoming, smokefree, at a Turanga Health Celebration Breakfast," said Auahi Kore Kaimahi Smokefree Worker Christine Nepia.

"Everyone in our programme, whether they have just signed up, are in the process of reducing the number of cigarettes they have, or have become smokefree, are invited."

The smoking cessation programme used by Turanga Health is called Aukati Kaipapa. It often surprises smokers when they sit down for their first consultation to be told they should continue to smoke as they normally do, for the next three days.

Community News

This section of our newsletter is devoted to you and your projects. If you would like to advertise your event, seminar or meeting, email details to [The PHOnetic](#)

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World Smokefree Day Tomorrow
 Thursday 31 May is World Smokefree Day. Check out tonight's Gisborne Herald for a two-page wrap on the smokefree work that has been going on around the district for the past year.

Read about individuals making a change as well as the work of Taki Tahī Toa Mano, The Cancer Society, local sport organisations, Fulton Hogan and Gisborne District Council.

This year's World Smokefree Day publication was supported by Taki Tahī Toa Mano working towards a Smokefree Tairāwhiti.

"It is so they can keep a smoking diary and we can see when they are choosing to have a cigarette and what the motivator might be: addiction, emotion or habit," says Christine.

Clients are then encouraged to delay having each cigarette, even for just 10 minutes, and start cutting some of the cigarettes right out. Turanga Health smokefree workers visit clients weekly for two months and then stay in touch with phone calls. Nicotine Replacement Therapy including patches and gum are prescribed where needed.

The other Turanga Health smoking cessation staff are Mere Waihi and Tom Smith, and the best thing of all: the service is free!

The Turanga Health Celebration Breakfast will include inspirational stories from smokefree whanau, spot prizes, and a special presentation to people who have been smokefree for 12 months or more.

The breakfast will be held at Te Whare Huinga, Tairawhiti Polytechnic, corner of Palmerston Rd and Cobden St, from 6.30am on Thursday 31 May (tomorrow).

Services to Improve Access Series GP, PN, PM, TH

Heard of SIA's? If you work for a GP Practice or Turanga Health you are probably part of an SIA. News to you? Well maybe it's because the work you do for the SIA or Service to Improve Access, is simply part of your business as usual.

Welcome to the Service to Improve Access Series. For the past six weeks The PHOnetic has profiled one of the six current Services to Improve Access projects and show you where you fit in! Today's profile is the last.

Services to Improve Access are local health programmes running through Turanganui Primary Health Organisation helping people with high health needs get to the doctor or Turanga Health. Eleven SIAs have started since TPHO began in 2002 and six are still operating. All the country's PHOs run SIAs. Of the six SIAs operating in TPHO two involve the GP Practices only (Sexual Health, Minor Surgery Skin Lesions), two involve GP Practices and Turanga Health (Palliative Care, Smoking Cessation), one involves PHO management but will eventually involve others (Kapai Kaiti Community Development), and one involves Turanga Health only (Oral Health Facilitation).

Oral Health Facilitation and Education

What is the Oral Health Facilitation SIA?

The Oral Health Facilitation SIA is the name for a handful of initiatives led by Turanga Health Oral Health Facilitator Whiona Pipi. Whiona works to get pre-school children in for their free dental appointments and check ups.

For example, parents and caregivers whose pre-school children missed dental appointments are contacted and supported to attend those appointments. Further to that work, Whiona also carries out a lot of oral health promotional work at appropriate venues and events. For example, the Lift the Lip Programme for pepi, and the Brush In Programme where school children learn how to brush their teeth correctly and learn why it is important.

So far these programmes have been run in numerous kohanga reo, and one total immersion kura. Displays and information about good oral health and hygiene have been held as part of school holiday programmes and Turanga Health's Whanau Hauora days.

What's the aim?

To decrease the incidence of poor oral health in the children living in the rural areas of Turanganui-a-Kiwa.

Who decided this would be a good project for TPHO?

A few years ago a Northland PHO released a report on how successful a lot of its oral health recall, follow up and promotional work had become. It caught the attention of Tairawhiti District Health, the Public Health Unit and Turanganui PHO where work in reducing the poor oral health statistics for Tairawhiti children was already underway.

Buoyed by new ideas and impetus, the Public Health Unit and Turanganui PHO shared their ideas for a more concentrated effort and as a result an SIA business case was submitted by the PHO to Tairawhiti District Health Board.

Where did the money come from?

The funding for this SIA came from the Ministry of Health but before Turanganui Primary Health Organisation could access it, it had to get sign off on the project from Tairawhiti District Health.

How many people are using it?

Whiona has facilitated and promoted oral health education to approximately 200 tamariki in rural areas. That number will increase over the next few months as she visits five other kohanga reo.

Have there been any gremlins in the project?

Whiona's biggest frustration is that oral health appears not to be recognized as an important health issue amongst most tamariki and some whanau. She says feedback from whanau would be valuable for increasing oral health enrollments, attendance and completion of dental treatments. Whiona says

Email [Pania Ruakere](#), Population Health Portfolio Manager, Tairawhiti District Health, to get involved with Taki Tahi Toa Mano, or for more information.

Kaupapa Maori Addiction Residential Treatment Service, RFP Lakes DHB on behalf of the Midland District Health Boards (BOP, Lakes, Tairawhiti, Taranaki and Waikato) is inviting organisations to submit proposals for the delivery of a Regional Kaupapa Maori Clinical Addiction Residential Treatment Service in Midland.

The regional service will deliver clinical services within a Kaupapa Maori framework, and will be responsive to the development needs of consumers.

Closing date for receipt of proposals will be 13 July 2007.

RFP documents are available from Marieke Wass, Planning and Funding, Lakes DHB, Private Bag 3023, Rotorua. Phone (07... ext 7863 or by emailing [Marieke Wass](#).

The RFP documents are also available electronically [by clicking here](#) however only hard copies of proposals will be accepted.

Social Marketing Healthy Eating Implementation Plan for Maori - Community Stakeholder Meetings The Health Sponsorship Council (HSC) is developing a social marketing programme aimed at improving nutrition in New Zealand and is partnering with Te Hotu Manawa Maori to plan how the programme can be implemented in Maori communities.

A workshop with stakeholder groups and individuals will be held in Gisborne on Tuesday 19 June, Lawson Field Theatre, Rose Room. [Click here](#) for registration details.

Friends of Chelsea Hospital AGM, Wednesday 13 June, 4.15pm, Chelsea Hospital, all members welcome.

Family Works Op Shop Re-opened The Family Works Op Shop at 73 Peel St has re-opened. Help us help Gisborne families.

Tairawhiti District Health Board Meeting, Tuesday 19 June, 9am, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

Hospital Advisory Committee TDH Hospital Advisory Committee meeting, Tuesday 26 June, 9am, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

Community and Public Health Advisory Committee/Disability Support Advisory Committee Tuesday 26 June, 1pm/2.30pm, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

Visit www.tdh.org.nz for all TDH meeting agendas.



Whiona Pipi and the tools of her trade.

these frustrations are shared by many staff working in the area of oral health throughout the country.

Page last modified on May 31, 2007, at 12:15 PM