



Turanganui PHO's Fortnightly Newsletter, Issue 31, March 19 2008

Patients Getting Free Help via HealthRight

Mental Health

General practice patients are

already benefiting from Turanganui Primary Health Organisation's HealthRight mental health program

City Medical General Practitioner Stu Hockey says the programme is a useful, free service for patients in need.

"After one lengthy discussion with someone in a crisis, and a part of the crisis was financial, to not charge the patient was a real pleasure for me," Dr Hockey says.

"The access to free, timely counseling is a great adjunct to what we do in general practice."

Mental Health Clinical Liaison Co-ordinator Robert Armstrong says the programme has been growing in momentum since it started in December.



HealthRight Clinical Liaison co-ordinator for Mental Health Robert Armstrong Photo: Clare Webber.

"There are a number of referrals each week, but it does vary, some days we can get four referrals in a day, other days are much quieter."

The focus of the HealthRight mental health referral programme is to help patients with mild to moderate mental health issues.

Dr Hockey says the thorough assessment and referral process carried out by Robert, and the subsequent level of clinical feedback, is useful from a GP perspective.

"Also, I think patients appreciate the quick response they have been getting from Robert in their follow up."

Robert is pleased with the referral process.

"The calibre of the referrals has been spot on. It has been people like you and me, who are going through a rough time, and need that extra support to help them through it," he says.

"It is refreshing to see your efforts really helping people. I'm really enjoying that aspect."

Community News
<p>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.</p> <p>If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please click here and send an email requesting that you unsubscribe.</p> <p>Alternatively you can request an addition to The PHOnetic's email distribution list.</p> <p>New Phone Number: Tairawhiti District Health Mental Health and Addiction Services Community Mental Health in the Morris Adair Building at Gisborne Hospital has been allocated a new direct dial: (06) 869 0588. This number is already operational and will be in the hospital listing in the new phone book due out in April. The old number of 868 7001 will be disconnected after a short crossover period.</p> <p>Manutuke and Muriwai Top Town 2008 Supported by CAYAD and Turanga Health. To register a team or enquire about a stall application please contact Janette or John on 869 0457. Top Town 2008 will be held on Sunday 6 April, 11am-4pm at the Maori Battalion Marae in Manutuke. Free BBQ, fun whanau activities, kidzone and kaumatua tent, health checks and displays, free fruit, water and sunscreen.</p> <p>Infection Control Practices Update Thursday 20 March, 10am-11am, Conference Room, Gisborne Hospital. There will be four Infection Control Practice Sessions in 2008, the first of which is Thursday 20 March. Please mark in your calendar the other sessions: 19 June, 18 September, and 11 December. To register email candy.atkins@tdh.org.nz. For further enquiries ring Infection Control Nurse Sandi Gamon on 869 0500 x 8561.</p> <p>Tairawhiti District Health Board Meeting, Tuesday 22 April, 9am, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.</p>

Turanganui Receives Letter of Offer for Western Rural

Keriana Brooking of Turanganui Primary Health Organisation has now received the letter of offer to run the district's rural health services west of Gisborne.

The services, which include the Waikohu GP, community nursing, and community based palliative care nursing components of the western rural health services, are currently run by Tairawhiti District Health.

"We have always been open and transparent about our potential involvement and I'm pleased this next step has been taken," said Keriana who will share the letter with Turanganui PHO Board Chairman David Scott this week.

"We already provide medical and community health services through the six General Practices and the Maori health organisation that are part of us. We would certainly be in a position to look at replicating those elsewhere in the district."

Turanganui PHO will begin formal proceedings including an official acceptance, then an investigation into how GP, nurse and community care might be provided, and by whom.

"The future transition process will be an opportunity for communities and local providers to consider a variety of care arrangements. Innovative ways of providing GP, nurse and community care can be explored.

Ms Brooking said she was disappointed with a Gisborne Herald article last week which included two errors and ambiguous language.

"On behalf of Tairawhiti District Health Chief Executive Jim Green and myself, we would like to apologise for any confusion the article may have created."

Practice Nurse Locum

Christchurch Practice Nurse Dawn Wilkinson is in Gisborne for six months and is interested in Practice Nurse locum work within primary health.

Dawn has worked in primary health as a practice nurse for the past six years and recently worked in the Riccarton Clinic, a new 24-hour emergency clinic.

She has come to Gisborne to spend time with her mother who has been recently widowed.

Dawn can be contacted on 867 1969.

Community and Public Health Advisory Committee/Disability Support Advisory Committee; Focus on our Youth - A Youth Health Strategy for Tairāwhiti. Open Public Forum. Guest speakers are Youth Advocate Manu Caddie, Youth Transition Services Director Geoff Mead, and TDH Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Team Leader Francis King. Tuesday, 25 March, 12.30pm-1.30pm, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

Hospital Advisory Committee Meeting, Monday 21 April, 12.30pm, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

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

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