

The PHOnetic

For anyone interested in primary health



Turanganui PHO's Fortnightly Newsletter, Issue 37, June 11, 2008

Immunisation Rates Above the National Average



Kaiti Medical Centre Immunisation Nurse Coordinator Kirsti Thorpe

Story and Image by Clare Webber

Immunisation rates at Turanganui Primary Health Organisation General Practices are well above the national average, at 89.1 percent of all 2-year-olds being fully immunised or declining immunisation.

This is despite recent reports in The Gisborne Herald that the immunisation rate for two-year-olds in Tairāwhiti is "one of the worst in the country" at 70 percent, compared to 76 percent nationally.

Turanganui PHO Chief Executive Keriana Brooking said a number of reasons could influence the discrepancy between the figures released by TDH and those from Turanganui PHO.

Figures released to the Gisborne Herald by TDH combined Turanganui PHO, Ngati Porou Hauora PHO and Western Rural practices, Ms Brooking said.

"The figure used by TDH was for the six months to 31 December 2007, where as the TPHO figure is to 31 March 2008.

"Also, the TDH figure is extracted from the National Immunisation Register where as the TPHO figure is extracted directly from TPHO general practices.

"TDH is doing a piece of work to ensure that all of the data from general practices is going accurately into the National Immunisation Register," Ms Brooking said.

"In some areas our immunisation rates are higher than the national average, but we still have a long way to go," Ms Brooking said.

"Because kids and families are more often in clinics in those first two years it gives us lots of opportunities to do preventative health work."

Pinnacle General Practice Liaison Robyne McKeague said Practice Nurses all work very diligently at offering immunisations for all appropriate ages.

"They have good systems in place for inviting, recalling, motivating and reminding parents.

"It is good to see their efforts pay off when you look at the statistics for those children fully immunised within the TPHO general practices."

This was echoed by Kaiti Medical Centre Immunisation Nurse Coordinator Kirsti Thorpe.

"We all certainly do as much as we can," Ms Thorpe said.

If, after repeated correspondence from the GP practice to the home, children remain absent from their vaccination schedule, they are referred to the Immunisation Outreach Service who do a "fantastic job".

"Our district is unique in a lot of ways, we cover such a large area and a transient population, so we are very lucky to have the Outreach Service, which is not funded in all districts."

Outreach immunisation nurses go to the homes of children who have missed their immunisations, and vaccinate them there. "In this way, other siblings are often caught up with their schedules at the same time," she said.

Transport difficulties and the demands of other children were also identified by caregivers as barriers to having their children immunised, Ms Thorpe said.

After age two, the work done around achieving good population health continued, Ms Brooking said. "We need to ensure kids are going to school with full immunisations."

Ms Thorpe agreed, saying by age five the immunisation statistics for Turanganui PHO "jumped right up again". "There are very few at this age who are not immunised, so it would appear we are picking up most children along the way."

\$5000 Grant for Nurse Practitioner Role

□ Story and Image by Clare Webber

Turanganui Primary Health Organisation Nurse Practitioner Diane Williams has been awarded a \$5000 grant so she can continue her workplace primary care programme at Juken New Zealand (JNL).

The grant, which came from District Health Boards New Zealand, was awarded to Diane for her pioneering work in primary health.

Diane is the only Nurse Practitioner in the district, and as well as her JNL primary health care work, she is also HealthRight Manager, and conducts evening smear clinics at the Community Health Clinic.



JNL staff member Shane Wilson and Nurse Practitioner Diane Williams
Photo: Clare Webber

"I am very happy with the grant, which has made things a little more user-friendly. I have only a small amount of room at Juken New Zealand, so the grant will make this a safer and more ergonomic workspace.

"Some of the diagnostic tools I have been able to buy will certainly improve health care for the workers and improve their access, and that is what it is all about for me."

The grant helped fund a cardio-check meter Diane will use to give her patients a thorough breakdown of both good and bad cholesterol without them having to go to a lab.

"Traditionally, this group of people find it difficult to access mainstream GP care.

"Onsite health checks and tests allows early identification, diagnosis and effective treatment of health issues, without stoppage of pay or leaving the site and while remaining in their comfort zone.

"So it means looking after their health in a way that works for them."

Diane runs the clinic at JNL twice a week and once a year staff get a

full 40-minute check up. There is also a drop-in service.

Grants were given to 13 sites across New Zealand to set up and support nurse practitioner roles. Diane's application was for a greater amount of money than was awarded, and unfortunately some items will not be able to be purchased due to the individual cost.

Diane is regularly funded for her JNL work through Turanganui PHO.

"Any extra funding is helpful... Our district health board doesn't get anywhere near the amount of funding of other boards and getting it to trickle down to the PHOs is hard.

"So any money is a bonus," she says.

Nine Year Wait Says Associate Health Minister

By Hayley Redpath

Associate Health Minister Steve Chadwick said it had taken nine years, not the six predicted, for New Zealanders to benefit from a health system featuring Primary Health Organisations.

The Rotorua Labour MP's comments came during an hour-long visit to Turanganui PHO last Wednesday where she met with CEO Keriana Brooking, Board Chair David Scott, Turanga Health CEO Reweti Ropiha, and HealthRight Manager Diane Williams.

"We are just starting to see the returns now. It's been nine years [since the inception of PHO's]. We thought it would be six," Ms Chadwick told the group.

Labour List MP Moana Mackey, Health Secretary Caroline Greaney and Juken New Zealand's Health and Safety Officer Neil Julian also attended the meeting.

David Scott suggested that in some cases the nine year lag may have been because PHO's could move only as fast as their local health sector allowed.

He cited Turanganui PHO's HealthRight programme for managing chronic conditions as an example where the PHO had been very upfront about the need for funding.

Ms Chadwick was interested in how other Service to Improve Access funding had been spent. Diane Williams and Keriana Brooking outlined some of the programmes including smoking cessation, sexual health, primary mental health, and skin lesions.

Ms Chadwick appeared impressed with the scope of referrals to community services and complemented the PHO on the integration between providers.

Keriana said a lot of resources had been allocated to ensure Turanga Health and the six medical centres from Turanganui PHO had linked electronic systems.

She said Turanganui PHO wanted any "door" that opened for a patient via general practice, Turanga Health, or Nurse Practitioner clinics at Juken New Zealand, to always lead to the most appropriate service.

Diane Williams used the meeting to question Labour on whether dental health services would ever fall under the PHO umbrella. She said early attention to reducing dental decay would save the health sector a lot of money.

"You can prevent an awful lot of ill health and complications by providing a low cost dental check annually."

Ms Chadwick said it had been "just too hard" in 2002 to equitably organise dental funding through PHO's and it was something that might be looked at in the future.



Associate Health Minister Steve Chadwick

Community News

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CME/CNE meeting – Issues arising from CVRA, 23 June 2008, 7pm-8.30pm, Turanga Health Board Room. Speaker: visiting cardiologist Rickard Linder. Enquiries to GP Liaison Marla Williams. Meeting will cover: Clinical and case study focus, isolated risk factors, abnormal lipid profiles and other CV risk management issues. Attendees are encouraged to bring any screening-related clinical issues you have identified for discussion and answers.

This is second and final session of the CVRA

Autism Guidelines Group Attracts Keriana

By Hayley Redpath



Turanganui PHO CEO Keriana Brooking Photo: Clare Webber

Three very different national review groups including one looking at autism have sought input from Turanganui Primary Health Organisation's Keriana Brooking. And Keriana says her reasons for helping are as diverse as the groups themselves

Last week Keriana's involvement with the Implementation Advisory Group for the New Zealand Autism Spectrum Disorders Guideline was confirmed by the Ministry of Health.

"I guess with the autism group I am wearing two hats as it brushes across my management role within a Primary Health Organisation, but also my role as a parent." Keriana's son has Aspergers.

"As chief executive I am always keen to be involved with work going on at a national level because in the end it benefits the organisations I am representing and the people, the public they work with. In this particular case, it could be me and my family. At this level, I and the others involved have the chance to influence policy."

Last month Keriana was co-opted on to the Ministry of Health's Care Plus Transition Project Advisory Group for her input into how

the Care Plus service can be improved.

Care Plus is a primary health care programme targeted at those with high health needs due to chronic conditions, acute mental health needs, or terminal illness,

A recent Victoria University review found inconsistencies in its application across the country, and now the MOH wants its subsequent recommendations critiqued by an appropriate panel. Keriana is joined by nine others from nursing, District Health Board, and medical backgrounds including Pinnacle's Dr David Maplesden.

National interest in Turanganui PHO's chronic care management programme HealthRight was the impetus behind her inclusion, Keriana says.

"And it's the same reason I was asked to be on the Expert Peer Review Group on the Development of the Long Term Conditions Framework."

This Ministry of Health-formed group looks at international research in the area of long term condition management.

"There is a lot of work being done that is relevant to New Zealand but it needs a New Zealand context applied so it does all it should, for example around areas like our regulations, and cultural appropriateness."

training as per the Pinnacle Quality Plan 11.

RSVP to [Robyne McKeague](#).

Talking Health with the Hon. Tony Ryall, Friday 13 June, The Bridge Club, 10.15am, public forum, anyone welcome.

Friends of Chelsea Hospital AGM, Wednesday 11 June, 4pm, at Chelsea Hospital.

Cancer Services Scholarship/Awards 2008 Those working in the central region (which includes Tairāwhiti) are invited to apply for a 2008 scholarship/award from the Central Districts Division of the Cancer Society of New Zealand. Total sum available: \$13,000. For details on who should apply, and how, click on the [Cancer Services Scholarship/Awards Information Sheet](#). Applications close June 20.

Free Breast Health Seminar, The New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation is holding this seminar to help everyone (males, females, young and old) become more aware of breast health. Gisborne Hotel, cnr Huxley and Tyndall Road, Wednesday 18 June, 7pm. For more information contact Pollyanne Taare on 863 3045.

Tairāwhiti District Health Board Meeting, Tuesday 17 June, 9am, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

Community and Public Health Advisory Committee/Disability Support Advisory Committee Meeting Tuesday, 24 June, 12.30pm, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

Hospital Advisory Committee Meeting, Monday 16 June, 12.30pm, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

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