

## The PHOnetic

*For anyone interested in primary health*



TPHO's Fortnightly Newsletter, Issue 4, 7 March 2007

### TPHO GPs and Nurses React to Lab Contract Announcement E

Tairawhiti District Health Board has chosen Tlab as its preferred laboratory provider leaving some TPO provider staff saddened at the potential loss of their working relationship with Medlab.

Desmond Road GP Francois Jacobs said it was a pity that an already excellent service from Medlab may be dismantled. "It's a sad day but this was all pre-planned and Medlab was doomed from the start. To balance the budget nothing and nobody is safe."

Village Clinic GP Murray Smith echoed Francois saying it was a "sad" decision. He said it was going to have negative effects on the efficiencies of current services. "Currently we have a wonderful service from Medlab." He believed savings would be minimal under the new chosen provider.

Village Clinic Practice Nurse Jennie Falloon's thoughts lent themselves to Medlab staff. "I feel there has been a dark cloud hanging over Medlab staff for a while now which I am sure has been unsettling. I really feel for the staff whose jobs are uncertain."

Kaiti Medical Centre GP Johan Peters believed any decision made by TDH had to be in the best interests of the district. "If it's a decision that can save money for other health services then, as unpalatable as it might be, that is the decision the DHB has to make".

Kaiti Medical Centre Head Practice Nurse Lynne Shields said she and her team had always been happy with Medlab. "We feel very sorry that they have lost the contract. Lynne too was saddened to think there may be job losses for the staff. She added that she remained "wary" of overseas employers and believed "locally based is definitely best".

Serendipity Health Ltd GP Siri Nanayakkara said "it does not make any economic sense by eliminating the competitive element of a market model for this monopolistic situation. Without competition, standards are bound to drop and valued human resources lost to other regions." Dr Nanayakkara said it is left to be seen whether the "savings" were redirected to patient interventions or "were engulfed in the management vortex".

Mangapapa Medical Centre GP Ken McFarlane said he could understand the need for the process but was unsure about the decision. The basis for his unease was "Tlab does not have a track record in community laboratory services in this district. It is all the subtleties, all the little things that can make a service work well."

Kaiti Medical Centre GP Brian Gibson said Medlab had a great history of service to primary care, and their demise would be a great loss. "Whether the new setup will measure up remains to be seen."

City Medical GP Bernd Stoltenberg said with decisions like this it would be thought-provoking to know how much due diligence had been carried out beforehand. "And it will be interesting if the promises of quality will be delivered," he added.

The chosen lab provider is Tlab, a joint venture between Medlab Central - a subsidiary of Australian owned Sonic Healthcare - and Tairawhiti Laboratory Service.

Upon reaching a decision Tairawhiti District Health sent Turanganui Primary Health Organisation the following letter. Click on the link to read this for yourself. [Full Letter to TPO from TDH](#)

### Mere and Whangara Take Top Billing E

Turanga Health's Mere Waihi is still on a high after being part of the winning kapa haka group at this year's Te Matatini National Kapa Haka Festival.

□ "I'm still on a high and it's lifted everyone around us," said Mere who works as a Smoking Cessation Coordinator for Turanga Health.

As well top honours Whangara mai Tawhiti took out a number of category wins including the haka, action song, moteatea, Manukura wahine (female leader), and kakahu (uniforms).

Mere said during the preliminary competition day, Whangara mai Tawhiti performed 30th out of 30 teams.

"But this was to our advantage. I think we took some people by surprise with our performance. We did things a bit differently than we had in previous festivals."



**Laboratory services in Tairawhiti are about to change**

#### 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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**Tairawhiti District Health Board Meeting**, Tuesday 20 March, 9am, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

**Hospital Advisory Committee** TDH Hospital Advisory Committee meeting, Tuesday 27 March, 9am, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

**Community and Public Health Advisory Committee/Disability Support Advisory Committee** Tuesday 27 March, 12.30pm, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

**Taki Tahi Toa Mano** Tairawhiti's regional smokefree group working towards a Smokefree Tairawhiti. Bi-monthly meetings. Next meeting Friday 23 March, 9.30am, Gisborne District Council. For more information email [Taki Tahi Toa Mano](#).

Visit [www.tdh.org.nz](http://www.tdh.org.nz) for all TDH meeting agendas.



**Mere Waihi (on left) on the way to victory**

Like everyone in the Whangara mai Tawhiti group, Mere is a descendant of famous ancestor and whale rider Paikea.

"We all had lots of whanau there which was awesome. We had a great feeling on stage."

Congratulations Mere!

## GP Fees to be Published Thursday 15 March **GP, PM**

The second publication of a GP Fees Table is due to be printed in The Bulletin on Thursday 15 March 2007. The information has also been available on the [GP Fees Page](#) from January 2007.

Please check the previous [GP Fees Advert](#) which ran in December 2006 and email [Hayley Redpath](#) if you have any changes. **These must be to Hayley by Tuesday 13 March.**

TPHO has approached Ngati Porou Hauora PHO about a sharing arrangement for publication of the whole district's GP fees.

For more background on why TPHO now publishes GP fees read the associated [press release](#) issued in December 2006.

## Who Uses TPHO GPs? New Utilisation Data Available **GP**

New GP utilisation data may be useful for Turanganui Primary Health Organisation GPs to refer to as they work towards indicators in the PHO Performance Management Programme.

The data includes information showing how many Maori and high needs patients have been seen by the PHO's GPs.

TPHO Chief Executive Keriana Brooking said the section of the report perhaps most interesting to GPs will be Section D relating to utilisation rates by quintile and ethnicity.

"The data shows us Quintile 5 enrolled patients that identify as Maori or Pacific Island, are visiting their GP less than Quintile 5 enrolled patients grouped as "other".

TPHO GPs have been involved in the Performance Management Programme since July 2006. The programme and its targets were introduced by the Ministry of Health to improve population health outcomes by identifying indicators of good health and setting targets that practices are then expected to achieve over time.

Process and Capacity Indicators in the PHO Performance Management Programme relate to things like access for high needs enrolled patients. "This information may be relevant," said Ms Brooking.

The attached data has been prepared by Pinnacle Group Limited's Primary Health Intelligence Unit (PHIU). TPHO can expect to receive an updated report every six months.

PHIU report author David Meadows said the purpose is to give utilisation trends and patterns in the enrolled population of the PHO. "This first report is a taster, more an indication of the potentials for which the data can be used for."

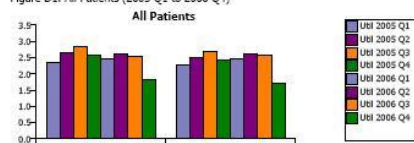
Below is just one section of the entire report, and the related data tables. For the full report visit [Full Utilisation Report](#) Note before downloading: The document is just under 1MB.

### D) Average Annual Utilisation Rate For Each Quarter By Quintile And Ethnicity\* (2005 Q1 to 2006 Q4)

\* Average Annual Utilisation Rate For Each Quarter By Quintile And Ethnicity has been calculated as follows:  
 ((Total Consultations for the Quarter, Quintile and Ethnicity) ÷ (Total Enrolled Patients for the Quarter, Quintile and Ethnicity)) X 4  
 NOTE: Patients without a valid quintile and/or ethnicity have been excluded.

#### D1. All Patients

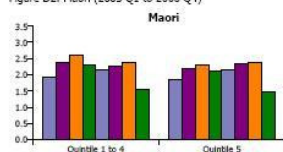
Figure D1: All Patients (2005 Q1 to 2006 Q4)



The data on which the above chart is based can be found in Appendix Table D1.

#### D2. Maori

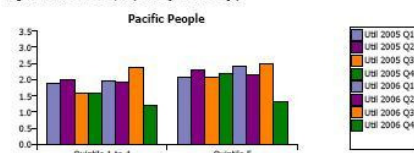
Figure D2: Maori (2005 Q1 to 2006 Q4)



The data on which the above chart is based can be found in Appendix Table D2.

#### D3. Pacific People

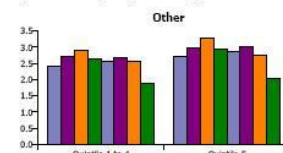
Figure D3: Pacific People (2005 Q1 to 2006 Q4)



The data on which the above chart is based can be found in Appendix Table D3.

#### D4. Other (coded patients not Maori or Pacific People)

Figure D4: Other (2005 Q1 to 2006 Q4)



The data on which the above chart is based can be found in Appendix Table D4.

**Table D1:**

Consultations and Enrolled Patients from 2005 Q1 to 2006 Q4 by Quintile

Quintile:	Quintile 1 to 4	Quintile 5
Consultations 2005 Q1	10,546	6,756
Enrolled Patients 2005 Q1	18,721	11,561
Consultations 2005 Q2	12,459	7,472
Enrolled Patients 2005 Q2	18,745	11,834
Consultations 2005 Q3	13,355	7,971
Enrolled Patients 2005 Q3	18,771	11,877
Consultations 2005 Q4	12,195	7,228
Enrolled Patients 2005 Q4	18,927	11,829
Consultations 2006 Q1	11,679	7,106
Enrolled Patients 2006 Q1	18,887	11,552
Consultations 2006 Q2	12,317	7,596
Enrolled Patients 2006 Q2	18,862	11,526
Consultations 2006 Q3	11,844	7,343
Enrolled Patients 2006 Q3	18,735	11,482
Consultations 2006 Q4	8,525	4,895
Enrolled Patients 2006 Q4	18,760	11,355

**Table D3:**

Consultations and Enrolled Patients for Pacific People from 2005 Q1 to 2006 Q4 by Quintile

Quintile:	Quintile 1 to 4	Quintile 5
Consultations 2005 Q1	58	197
Enrolled Patients 2005 Q1	122	379
Consultations 2005 Q2	53	226
Enrolled Patients 2005 Q2	106	394
Consultations 2005 Q3	44	207
Enrolled Patients 2005 Q3	110	398
Consultations 2005 Q4	39	221
Enrolled Patients 2005 Q4	99	407
Consultations 2006 Q1	47	236
Enrolled Patients 2006 Q1	95	396
Consultations 2006 Q2	50	206
Enrolled Patients 2006 Q2	104	396
Consultations 2006 Q3	58	231
Enrolled Patients 2006 Q3	98	371
Consultations 2006 Q4	29	125
Enrolled Patients 2006 Q4	96	375

**Table D2:**

Table D2: Consultations and Enrolled Patients for Maori from 2005 Q1 to 2006 Q4 by Quintile

Quintile:	Quintile 1 to 4	Quintile 5
Consultations 2005 Q1	1,796	3,197
Enrolled Patients 2005 Q1	3,755	6,881
Consultations 2005 Q2	2,188	3,766
Enrolled Patients 2005 Q2	3,708	6,855
Consultations 2005 Q3	2,371	3,899
Enrolled Patients 2005 Q3	3,670	6,790
Consultations 2005 Q4	2,137	3,536
Enrolled Patients 2005 Q4	3,711	6,722
Consultations 2006 Q1	1,990	3,518
Enrolled Patients 2006 Q1	3,709	6,535
Consultations 2006 Q2	2,104	3,799
Enrolled Patients 2006 Q2	3,738	6,442
Consultations 2006 Q3	2,183	3,791
Enrolled Patients 2006 Q3	3,679	6,406
Consultations 2006 Q4	1,421	2,323
Enrolled Patients 2006 Q4	3,701	6,319

**Table D4:**

Consultations and Enrolled Patients for Other Ethnicities (all coded patients not Maori or Pacific People) from 2005 Q1 to 2006 Q4 by Quintile

Quintile:	Quintile 1 to 4	Quintile 5
Consultations 2005 Q1	8,779	3,150
Enrolled Patients 2005 Q1	14,714	4,622
Consultations 2005 Q2	10,083	3,454
Enrolled Patients 2005 Q2	14,806	4,571
Consultations 2005 Q3	10,795	3,767
Enrolled Patients 2005 Q3	14,886	4,630
Consultations 2005 Q4	9,896	3,417
Enrolled Patients 2005 Q4	15,017	4,648
Consultations 2006 Q1	9,633	3,299
Enrolled Patients 2006 Q1	15,006	4,585
Consultations 2006 Q2	10,037	3,506
Enrolled Patients 2006 Q2	14,946	4,660
Consultations 2006 Q3	9,518	3,229
Enrolled Patients 2006 Q3	14,927	4,684
Consultations 2006 Q4	6,886	2,328
Enrolled Patients 2006 Q4	14,930	4,632

## Practice Nurse Keen to Work - Advertisement

My name is Ruth Newton. I have had 10 years experience as a practice nurse and 6 years experience as an accident and medical nurse in Auckland. I have worked in both fields up until my shift to Gisborne 3 weeks ago.

I have bought a house in Gisborne and am in the process of shifting in and looking at work opportunities.

I am interested in any relief work if available, however, permanent or part-time is also an option I would consider.

I have a CV available. I can be contacted on **021 450 218** , **(06) 863 2102** (from March 10), by or emailing me at [Ruth Newton](mailto:Ruth.Newton).

I am really looking forward to joining the primary health care nursing groups in Gisborne.

Kia ora, Ruth.

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