



Turanganui PHO's Fortnightly Newsletter, Issue 46, October 14, 2008



Turanganui PHO Chief Executive Keriana Brooking
 Image: Brett Mead Photography

Minor Surgery Beneficial but Funding Source the Wrong One

Subsidies to general practice for patient skin lesion removals have ended because the funding source was the wrong one, says Turanganui Primary Health Organisation's Keriana Brooking.

"When money aimed at reducing inequalities among people with the worst health is tagged to a programme that isn't making a difference for that intended population, then the money has to come from elsewhere."

That is the basis for the Board decision announced this month to discontinue the Minor Surgery programme from 31 October, said the Chief Executive

"We simply couldn't justify the use of Service to Improve Access (SIA) money for a programme that didn't meet the criteria.

"No one would expect funding allocated to a decile-1 school, aimed at overcoming barriers faced by students from low socio-economic communities, to be pumped into a decile-10 school.

"The same principles apply in this situation."

SIA funding is available for all PHOs to reduce inequalities among people known to have the worst health statistics: Maori, Pacific people and those living in NZDep index 9-10 decile areas.

The Minor Surgery – Skin Lesions project was intended to improve access to skin lesion removal.

GPs were reimbursed the cost of removal of clinically suspicious skin cancers, lesions identified during a previous biopsy, and skin lesions deemed to be disfiguring or with long term morbidity if left untreated.

The project, started with the allocation of 'vouchers' or 'set subsidies' in March 2006.

By 2007 preliminary data analysis showed the majority of patients having skin lesions removed were European (90%). A recent evaluation carried out by Pinnacle Group Limited shows the trend continued. Only 9 percent of patients identified as Maori or Pacific. Only 27% of the patients had a domicile coding of quintile 5 (high need).

The Pinnacle evaluation said: 'The actual use [of vouchers] does not reflect the weighting given to the categories for the purposes of voucher allocation'.

Ms Brooking said the announcement will be disappointing for some general practitioners who view the programme as a tangible way of providing a direct and free benefit to those who use the service.

"However it is difficult to see how this programme can continue to be funded by SIA funding when the research shows quite clearly that it doesn't meet SIA criteria."

Tairāwhiti District Health (TDH) is responsible for approving SIA proposals from PHOs.

Tairāwhiti District Health Acting Group Manager Planning, Funding and Population Health, Virginia Brind said reducing inequalities amongst populations known to have the worst health statistics was the reason SIA funding existed.

"Pinnacle's evaluation of the Minor Surgery programme certainly indicated that it was used by patients, however the same evaluation clearly confirms those using the service was not the population group specified within the SIA funding guidelines," said Ms Brind.

As well as improving accessibility of health services for those most in need, the Minor Surgery SIA programme aimed to reduce referrals to secondary care. Qualitative research carried out by Pinnacle indicated that referrals to secondary care have not decreased.

The Turanganui PHO Board has asked Pinnacle Group Limited to redesign the list of eligible diagnostic categories for this service. The Board agreed that until this work is completed the programme had to be put on hold.

Ms Brooking said it would be easier to request funding from other sources once there was a more transparent application.

Ms Brind and Ms Brooking agreed that Elective Services and Cancer Control funding via TDH were potential funding sources. Work being done by both organisations around these issues needed to occur first, however.

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](mailto:info@tpho.org.nz).

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please click [here](#) and send an email requesting that you unsubscribe.

Alternatively you can request an addition to The PHOnetic's email distribution list.

Turanganui PHO Board Meeting and AGM Pirates Conference Rooms, 15 Anzac St, Gisborne, 3pm.

Pinnacle GP Network meeting with Chief Executive John Macaskill-Smith, Pirates Conference Room, 6.30pm.

Free Gardening With Arthritis Seminar presented by Arthritis New Zealand. Guest speakers include Occupational Therapist Chris O'Hara, Physiotherapist Claire Parker, Naturopath Julie Logan, and Succulent Specialist Glenda Gooch. May interest patients or health staff. Nursery Garden Centre, 495 Nelson Road, Gisborne. For more information or to register contact Cheryl or Marina on 868 1060.

Ngati Porou Hauora Primary Health Organisation AGM Thursday 30 October 2008, 10am, Hinemaurea Marae, Mangatuna Road, Tolaga Bay.

Early Detection of Prostate Cancer in General Practice A focus group for all GPs and Practice Nurses, 4 November, 7am-8.30am, Turanga Health Board Room, 134 Derby St. Light breakfast provided. Speakers: Manawatu DHB Specialist Urologist Quinten King, Massey University Clinical Psychologist Dr Don Baker, Manawatu DHB GP Liaison and Primary Care Advisor Dr Warren Nichols.

The programme neither advocates for or

"It also needs to be remembered that TDH has a primary focus of reducing inequalities- and this is always a significant part of funding decisions," Ms Brind added.

General Practitioners will be able to discuss this issue further this evening at the Pinnacle GP Network meeting with Chief Executive John Macaskill-Smith. Keriana Brooking will also be present.



Prof Max Abbott

Turanganui PHO Mental Health Programme Praised and Encouraged

Pilot primary mental health programmes such as the one managed by Turanganui Primary Health Organisation's Robert Armstrong, received glowing support recently from AUT University Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Max Abbott.

Speaking to the New Zealand Herald, Prof Abbott said there should be the same emphasis on mental health in primary care, as there is on physical health, and he called for the programmes to be sustained and carried forward.

"I'm aware the GPs and primary health care people can't anywhere near meet the requests they're getting for the pilot projects they've set up," he said.

Prof Abbott is the past president of the World Federation for Mental Health, and past national director of the Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand.

This district's pilot project started in December 2007. Known as the Primary Mental Health Initiative the "bottom up" approach is designed to offer assessment, treatment and support to people presenting to general practitioners with mild to moderate mental health conditions.

Patients qualifying for help in this district are able to have an extended consultation with a GP at no extra cost, and may then be referred to Turanganui PHO's Primary Mental Health Clinical Liaison Robert Armstrong.

Between December 2007 and June 2008 Turanganui PHO-affiliated general practitioners carried out 125 extended consultations. Robert Armstrong saw 136 patients between December 2007 and this September.

Mr Armstrong says the five Turanganui PHO general practices involved (The Village Clinic, City Medical Centre, Serendipity Health Ltd, Kaiti Medical Centre and Mangapapa Medical Centre) are regular referrers and the feedback he was getting was positive.

Examples of patients referred include those experiencing panic attacks, depression, or anxiety, for any number of reasons.

"After assessing a patient I can suggest community organisations that may benefit a person. These may include relationship counseling, Women's Refuge, or budget advice. I also have the ability to refer on for psychological input or for counselling."



Zoe Alford, counsellor

One counsellor, Zoe Alford, said there was no doubt the Turanganui PHO primary mental health initiative was filling a gap.

Mrs Alford said some mental health issues may in time drain the public purse, but if they can be managed early, then everyone benefits.

"Most patients with mild to moderate mental health issues need only a few sessions, and then they are away. This programme acts as the ambulance at the top of the cliff before problems become entrenched. It's brilliant."

Mrs Alford praised Mr Armstrong's ability to assess patients.

"He is sending me people who can be helped by what I do in four sessions. He gets one interview to do that and there is a real skill involved. You need experience and he is getting it right."

"There is a good team thing going on here."

She said the other wonderful aspect of the programme was that it made counselling (and other help) available to those who would not otherwise be able to afford it.

"If someone's mental health issue is moderate to severe, they may be able to access free counselling up at the hospital. With the new programme, if a person's issue falls into the moderate to mild category, they too can receive free help."

against PSA based prostate cancer screening. It aims to improve understanding of the medical, social and medico-legal issues, provide skills and decision-support materials to support and promote informed choice.

RSVP to [Robyne McKeague](#).

Smoking Cessation Practitioner Training
Heart Foundation, Stage 1 - Tuesday 4 November, Stage 2 - Wednesday 5 November, Pirates Conference Rooms, 15 Anzac St, Gisborne, 9.30am-4.30pm. [Click here](#) for more information on who should attend and how to register.

Medtech User Group Meeting Medtech and Turanganui PHO invite you to a user group meeting on 'Tips and Tricks' and 'Upcoming Features of MT32', Thursday 6 November 2008, Pirates Conference Rooms, 15 Anzac St, Gisborne, no cost.

- Administrators Session - 5.45pm-7.15pm sharp
- Clinical Session - 7.30pm-9pm sharp

Register by faxing the [attached form](#) to Robyne McKeague, 863 2347 or [email](#) her.

Wound Care Study Day - One Day Workshop Presented by Tairāwhiti District Health with Ann Corak, Woundcare Nurse Specialist, and Donna Johansson from Smith & Nephew. Wednesday 26 November, 9am-4.30pm, Conference Room, Tairāwhiti District Health.

The session covers A & P skin, physiology of healing and moist wound healing, assessment and documentation, choosing a dressing, and dressing products.

Registration is essential as numbers are limited to 40. A charge of \$30 incl GST per person will apply. To register please contact [Candy Hauiti](#), or phone on 869 0500 x8034.

Privacy Workshop and Code of Rights Session for Pinnacle staff. Pinnacle's Denise Ward will present on privacy. Health and Disability Advocate Margaret Price will present on the Code of Rights. Pirates Conference Rooms, December 4, 6.30pm-8.30pm. Invites have been sent to practices.

Tairāwhiti District Health Board Meeting, Tuesday 21 October, 9am, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

Community and Public Health Advisory Committee/Disability Support Advisory Committee Meeting Tuesday 28 October 9am/11am, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

Hospital Advisory Committee Meeting, Monday 20 October, 12.30pm, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

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

Lou Kemp New

Asthma Educator

Former kaiāwhina Lou Kemp is now Turanga Health's Asthma Educator.

Ms Kemp will be working with referred patients helping them to better manage their asthma and medication.

For the past decade Ms Kemp has been a kaiāwhina or community health worker with the Whānau Hauora or family health team at Turanga Health.



Turanga Health Asthma Educator Lou Kemp
Image: Clare Webber

Ms Kemp she was looking for a new challenge, but enjoys the new level of contact she has with families she has known for some time.

Referral criteria to the Turanga Health Asthma Educator is for any asthmatics that need support, further education and/or better asthma self management for themselves or their whanau.

For more information you can contact Lou Kemp on 869 0750, fax: 869 0412, or **027 449 0969** , or [email](#) her.

David Scott on Primary Health Advisory Council – PHONZ Appointment



Turanganui PHO Board Chair David Scott
Image: Clare Webber Photography

Turanganui Primary Health Organisation Board Chair David Scott has been appointed as the PHONZ representative on the Primary Health Advisory Council.

David has had a long and varied background in health, social services, Justice, community services, local government (elected member) and has been Turanganui PHO chair for four years.

The Council is revamped from the Primary Health and PHO Taskforce and will take a more prominent role in the next stage of the Primary Health Care Strategy.

Its main role will be as a forum for the Ministry of Health and District Health Boards to engage at a national level.

Other members include Allied Health Professionals Association Forum, College of Nurses Aotearoa (NZ) Inc, New Zealand Medical Association, New Zealand Nurses Organisations, NGO Working Group, Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand, Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners, Health Care Aotearoa, National Maori Coalition, Pacific PHO Sector, PHO Alliance, and Consumers Institute.

David says the Council wants to ensure the vision of the Primary Health Care Strategy is realized, and that learning and experience gained to date informs the next phase of sector development.

He says it is important to have a voice.

"PHONZ represents a large number of enrolled patients, general practitioners, nursing and administration staff all of whom have particular goals, aspirations and diverse methods of practice. The Council needs to hear their feedback.

"It also needs feedback from rural areas where resourcing issues and an aging workforce make the provision of essential services difficult.

"This forum will show me what works well in similar situations to Tairāwhiti. I intend to set up a communication network within PHONZ members so that feedback, ideas, opinions can occur efficiently."

Turanganui PHO Helps Celebrate Local Generosity

Turanganui Primary Health Organisation was represented at two community events last week, each a celebration of local generosity.

Chief Executive Keriana Brooking attended More FM's Gizzy Awards acknowledging the achievements of everyday people; and the launch of world-class drug dispensing technology at Sun City Pharmacy.

Both events were last Thursday.

At the Gizzy Awards Ms Brooking presented the award in the Best HealthCare Worker category sponsored by the PHO. Decided by public nominations and votes Ms Brooking said the Gizzy Awards were for everyday people in the Gisborne community whose efforts often went unnoticed.

Up for the HealthCare Worker award was Kaiti Medical Centre's Johan Peters. After the tally up, the award went to Jane Donnelly from Gisborne Hospital's Emergency Department.

"It was an enjoyable function as there were lots of other people there with their supporters and families. As opposed to a corporate 'do', it was a nice community event," Ms Brooking said.

Earlier in the evening Ms Brooking attended a launch celebrating the installation of a robotic prescription dispensing system and tele-pharmacy services to Te Puia Springs and Ruatoria.

Ms Brooking said for Sun City Pharmacy owner Peter Barron the launch fulfilled a long time promise to people of the Coast.

"It's an amazingly touching story about his commitment to the Coast. A number of people had made the journey to the official launch."

[Click here](#) to read The Gisborne Herald coverage of the event, and the full story behind Mr Barron's promise.

Turanga Health Staffers Return from Beijing Festival

Turanga Health welcomes two staff members back from China this week where they represented New Zealand at the World Folk Song Festival.

Vanessa Lowndes Centre Tutor Guy Moetara and Tamariki Ora Service kaiāwhina Maewa Thornton traveled to Beijing as part of Maori performing arts group Te Manawa Maurea.

The event was hosted by China's renowned National Centre for the Performing Arts and featured artists from all over the world.

Mr Moetara said the group performed three times during the festival and the response was great.

"We had good feedback from the Chinese audiences. There were a whole lot of other international groups. Our performance had interaction, movement, and diversity between high action loud haka, to slower moteatea that might be sung at a tangi."

Fifteen people from Gisborne introduced Chinese audiences to Maori culture and engaged in cultural dialogue and exchanges with artists from all over the world.

Earlier this year fellow Vanessa Lowndes Centre tutor John Moetara (Guy's son) traveled as part of Te Manawa Maurea with Prime Minister Helen Clark and New Zealand Trade Delegation to Beijing for the signing of the New Zealand-China Free Trade Agreement.

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