

The PHOnetic

For anyone interested in primary health



TPHO's Fortnightly Newsletter,
Issue 6, 4 April 2007

**Keriana Brooking
Acting Chair
National Body E**



Keriana Brooking, Acting Chair of PHONZ

Keriana Brooking, Chief Executive of Turanganui Primary Health Organisation, has been confirmed as Acting Chair of Primary Health Organisation New Zealand (PHONZ).

PHONZ was previously chaired by Sir Ron Scott who this month stepped aside to spend more time with his family.

PHONZ provides national representation for 16 Primary Health Organisations or about one million enrolled patients.

At only 18 months old, the organisation has already cut its teeth in national-level lobbying when it was involved in the GP Fee Review in the middle of last year.

Keriana, 36, says after PHONZ was involved with those discussions she was keen to see the organisation "be more than single issue focussed" and decided to stand for the board.

Just this week Keriana and Manaia PHO CEO Chris Farely (Whangarei) met with the Ministry of Health's Deputy Director General of Public Health Dr Don Mathieson. They discussed PHOs' role in the devolution of public health services from District Health Boards.

Keriana says membership to PHONZ gives small PHOs representation in the corridors of power. There are also opportunities to pool ideas, evaluations, and reports. In the next few weeks PHONZ will be employing a Chief Executive.

PHONZ is the smaller of the two PHO-membership organisations in New Zealand. The other is PHO Alliance which represents about two million enrolled patients.

TPHO Chair David Scott said as a rurally remote PHO "our links with PHONZ are very important".

"Its Chair and members of the executive enjoy a privileged professional relationship with the Ministry of Health and Minister of Health Pete Hodgson. More than once during the past few months the PHONZ Chair and Pete have met informally and 'chewed the fat' on a wide range of issues related to Primary Health."

David said having Keriana on the PHONZ executive will have positive spin-offs for TPHO.

"Not only will we be well informed of the latest happenings in Primary Health but Keriana will also be able to discuss innovative strategies with the Minister and keep him informed about things that work well and things that don't. Our Board congratulates and supports Keriana as she carries out her role."

Sir Ron Scott stood down from chairing PHONZ after Upper Hutt GP Marko Kljakovic was burned by a fireball earlier this year. The GP was doing some renovation work in a Wellington house he owned. Dr Kljakovic, who is married to Sir Ron's daughter, remains in hospital care.

Nominations for a new PHONZ Chair will be taken in July.

Services to Improve Access Series GP, 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.

So here, for the first time, is the Service to Improve Access Series. Each week The PHOnetic will profile one of the six current Services to Improve Access projects and show you where you fit in!

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).

This week's SIA profile is Sexual Health.

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)

To add someone to The PHOnetic email distribution list, or to opt off email details to [The PHOnetic](mailto:info@tpho.org.nz)

NZ Diabetes Gisborne Inc Meeting
Thursday 5 April at 7.30pm in the Blind Foundation rooms on Grey St. Speakers include Emma Davidson and Podiatrist Stuart Harrison. Everyone welcome. Supper after. All enquiries to Elaine Muir
(06) 868 4415

Cancer Society Living With Cancer, Cancer Society Rooms, Wednesdays 21 March - 18 April, 6pm. A programme for people living with cancer, their families and friends, over five weeks. A series of workshops exploring issues and various ways of coping with and understanding cancer. For more information or to register [click here](http://www.cancersociety.org.nz) or phone Gisborne Cancer Society 867 1795.

National Cervical Screening Programme
More appointment choices are now available for women requiring cervical smears with two evening smear clinics at the Community Health Clinic. For more details [click here](http://www.cancersociety.org.nz). This is a free and friendly service for patients.

Health Eating, Healthy Action (HEHA) Meeting Sport Gisborne Board Room, Tuesday 24 April, 10am. For more information or to add agenda items [email Nicki Mathieson](mailto:info@tpho.org.nz).

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

Hospital Advisory Committee TDH
Hospital Advisory Committee meeting, Tuesday 24 April, 9am, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

Community and Public Health Advisory Committee/Disability Support Advisory Committee Tuesday 24 April, 1pm/2.30pm, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

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

Sexual Health

At its most basic, what is the Sexual Health SIA?

Free sexual health consultations with a GP or practice nurse have been available for under-25-year olds since March 2006.

What's the aim?

The aim of the free service is to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies and reduce the Chlamydia infection rate. Early treatment for a sexually transmitted infection means people face less risk of complications. Untreated sexually transmitted infections can lead to long term problems, including infertility. Positive sexual health is fundamental to everyone's sense of self, self esteem and ability to lead a fulfilling life.

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 Tairāwhiti District Health.

Who decided this would be a good project for TPHO?

This particular SIA had already been rolled out in a number of the country's PHOs including the four other PHOs that Pinnacle supports.

Which GP Practices are offering the free Sexual Health Service?

All six GP Practices that belong to TPHO are offering it. That is: Mangapapa Medical Centre, Kaiti Medical Centre, Serendipity Health Ltd, City Medical Centre, Desmond Road Medical Centre and Village Medical Centre.

So what happens to the patient?

Each of the six participating GP practices do things a bit differently but patients in most cases can opt to see a Practice Nurse or a GP for their free sexual health consultation. GPs and Practice Nurses will refer to each other where appropriate.

How many people are using it?

TPHO wishes more people were using the service. Using figures from Pinnacle for the ten months to December 2006, an estimated 4769 enrolled patients were eligible but only 667 people aged 13-24 took advantage of the service. That equates to just 14 percent of eligible people.

Surely some of those people will have used the service more than once? Yes. And that's why stating the number of consultations provided under the service may give a truer volume of activity. There has been 1066 consults – an average of 1.6 consults per patient.

What other information is needed to better understand the figures?

1) Not all practices started offering the service from 1 March 2006. Only three started on this date and the other three started claiming April 2006. 2) One of the services offered, cervical smears, is eligible to only a small proportion of the total eligible population (women aged 21-24 years). 3) Pregnancy Testing of course is also only for the female population

Do we know anything else about the people using it?

Pinnacle figures to December 2006 show that the utilization of services by Maori and European is about the same (Maori 14.2% and European 14.5%). A total of 94% of users were women and that would be expected because pregnancy testing and cervical smears are offered under the free service.

Has the PHO done anything to promote the project?

Currently Turanga FM broadcasts radio advertisements for the service.

Kaiti Medical Centre GP Johan Peters has promoted the service via Wassup Doc

All the practices have posters advertising the service

In September 2006 the PHO issued a press release about the project. The day after The Gisborne Herald ran with a story as did a number of local radio stations.

Have there been any gremlins in the project?

One frustration has been around the invoice/payment process between GP Practices and Pinnacle. With the Sexual Health project, GP Practices are paid once the screening data is received by Pinnacle, not when the invoice is received. This can make it very hard for administration staff when they are reconciling the practice accounts.

The good news is that the new software application Medtech Advanced Forms which GP Practices can look forward to in a few months time will allow invoice and screening data to be combined.

Does the project have an end date?

The free sexual health checks for under-25-year-olds will be available until June 2008.

Turanga Health Explains Palliative Care Services GP, PM, PN



Palliative Care Kaiawhina Babe Te Maro (right) at work this week alongside Kaumatua Day participant Pani Raureti. Kaumatua Day this fortnight was held at Maori Battalion Marae, Manutuke.

met with only one or two staff members. She thinks it would be more appropriate to visit GP Practices during an all-staff meeting and invites Practice Managers to contact her about an appropriate time.

Turanga Health Personal Health Manager Albie Stewart said pamphlets about the service have been dropped off to GP Practices. He reminded GPs that all patients who have been diagnosed as palliative end stage can be actively managed by the kaiawhina in partnership with General Practice.

The PHOnetic has received some encouraging feedback from General Practice and Turanga Health staff following last fortnight's article on the under-utilisation of palliative care services from Turanga Health.

In the last edition of The PHOnetic Turanganui Primary Health Organisation Chief Executive Keriana Brooking said within the Palliative Care Service to Improve Access project GPs can bring in the Turanga Health kaiawhina to be involved in the care and support of palliative care patients. However referrals had been minimal.

Since then the feedback has been that GP Practices seem keen to use the service but they say little knowledge of it is hampering referrals. Turanga Health agrees with the sentiment, and stresses that work has already begun to increase the relationship between itself and GPs in this area.

Turanga Health Palliative Care Kaiawhina Babe Te Maro has in the past four months visited or spoken with staff members at Kaiti Medical Centre, Mangapapa Medical Centre, Serendipity Health Ltd, City Medical Centre and The Village Clinic. In most cases she has

Referrals can be made one of four ways: through the Medtech system, or via a phone call, email or fax to Babe Te Maro. (Contact details at bottom). The kaiawhina will then contact the family to discuss support services for the patient but also the family as well.

Through her 13 years working with older people Babe Te Maro has an in-depth knowledge of the services available at Turanga Health and across the region. Previous manager of Whare Kaumatua, Babe has links with Tairāwhiti District Health palliative care services, Gisborne Palliative Care Trust, the Gisborne East Coast Cancer Society and others.

Babe Te Maro works Monday – Wednesdays and is available on ph (06) 869 0457 , fax (06) 869 0769 or babe.temaro@turangahealth.co.nz. She is contactable on Thursdays and Fridays on (06) 868 4559 .



Turanga Health Celebrates Accreditation at Kaumatua Day

Rounds of applause and "ka pais" greeted Turanga Health Chief Executive Reweti Ropiha as he presented Turanga Health's

Accreditation certificate to over 100 kaumatua and kuia at Maori Battalion Marae last Tuesday.

Reweti and Personal Health Manager Albert Stewart decided to celebrate the recent Turanga Health achievement at Kaumatua Day because the programme "represents everything that Turanga Health stands for".

"They [our kaumatua] feel looked after with most of them religiously looking forward to every Tuesday fortnight because it gives them an opportunity to seek companionship and provides opportunities to strengthen the wairua of our kaumatua alongside any tinana health aspects that they may have."

"When you look more closely and consider how long Turanga Health has been around the achievement of Accreditation becomes more significant."

Every two weeks over 130 kaumatua are transported to a marae in Turanganui-A-Kiwa to participate in the programme. They have health checks, and are bombarded with relevant health messages around avoidable and manageable diseases such as diabetes, respiratory illness and heart disease.

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