

Chief Executive's Review

I echo the Chairman's sentiments, and also applaud and salute each and every one of our staff and community members who have worked extremely hard during the past year. We have far exceeded any previous years in many ways and that is a result of the effort of our staff and the contribution of the other health and disability providers in Counties Manukau. I am pleased to report that the elective surgery production exceeded the Board's target through a concentrated effort from a large number of staff and despite a significant amount of industrial action throughout the year. Overall we provided elective procedures to 35.6% or 2,684 more Counties residents than in the previous year.

As we celebrate Middlemore's 60th anniversary a big thank you to past and present staff for creating the CMDHB of today. Celebrations were held during early May and included a cocktail party, a time for old staff and current staff to reminisce, a debate between previous CEOs and senior medical staff, and a church service and tour of new facilities. I must specifically thank the organising committee for making the celebrations such a success.

Our journey to reduce health inequalities continues and it is a major advance to see the improvements in life expectancy for Maaori and Pacific people. Though health is only one component impacting this measure, it is by working together on initiatives, such as Healthy Housing with Housing NZ, that significant improvements will be achieved. Great progress has been made to date but we need to continue working with other agencies and local government, eg Manukau City Council and Tomorrow's Manukau, in order to maximise the benefits for the people of Counties Manukau.

In the last few years we have made significant investment

towards building the foundations for a world class health system in Counties Manukau, however we now need to move on and really make sure the benefit of this investment is realised. It is important that we are able to measure how programmes such as Let's Beat Diabetes have contributed to improved health status for the people of Counties Manukau.

A key step is our increasing focus on clinical quality to ensure that we improve our responsiveness to our patients and improve access to health services. Everything we do must be able to be measured by the "Granny" test (how one would want and expect a member of your family/whaanau cared for by health services). This has included a review of how we work, focussing on identifying ambitious stretch targets and redesigning services including the implementation of the productive ward concept, which essentially puts nurses in charge of redesigning how their workplace operates. We need to pick up the pace in terms of change by empowering staff to implement this type of quality improvement. This will be a challenging time and we need to ensure staff are properly supported through this positive change. Professional values need to be at the heart of all we do in order to build a world class health system for the people of Counties Manukau.

Another important focus for the coming year is to improve the quality of care for patients presenting to Middlemore's Emergency Department. Our goal is to have 90% of patients through Emergency Care within 6 hours and achieve the Ministry of Health's triage times. This is a complex issue to resolve but its impact on patients and the flow on effect through the rest of the hospital means this is a priority that we must address urgently.



Further, to ensure that we have a safe, enjoyable workplace we are taking a stand that there will be zero tolerance of discrimination or violence of any form. CMDHB does not tolerate discrimination of any sort including racial or sexual orientation discrimination.

As always, we cannot do this alone, we need to work with other DHBs, particularly those in the northern region.

Regional collaboration has continued to provide benefits for Counties Manukau DHB through healthAlliance and other mechanisms such as Auckland Regional Resident Medical Officers Service (ARRMOS) which was established on 1 April 2007 to improve co-ordination of resident doctors.

Similarly we are continuing to support providers through ongoing provider development to ensure they have the capacity and are equipped to meet the needs of the Counties Manukau community. We cannot deliver on our key strategic objectives without our providers, and moving forward we need to work more closely with Primary Health Organisations (PHOs) and other providers by improving how we integrate them into our planning processes. Their value has been recognised in projects such as the planning for Mangere which has involved PHOs, other providers and the community in the model of care development.

As in previous years we are continuing to invest in facilities development. Significant milestones this year include the completion of the radiology redevelopment a three-year project, the additional wards in the Adult Medical Centre, and the opening of Whirinaki the Child and Adolescent Community Mental Health Centre. While the majority of the development has been focussed initially around the Middlemore site developments, refurbishment projects are also underway at our satellites, as well as significant expansion on the Browns Rd site.

As I write this we are getting close to the District Health Board elections, I would like to acknowledge the Board and the Board Committee members for their contribution to the DHB's achievements. They have provided strong leadership and governance guiding the DHB for the past three years. I also acknowledge Stephen McKernan's contribution to this year's achievements. His leadership provided the strategic direction which we have continued to implement since his departure at the end of July 2006.

In conclusion I would like to again thank our staff and the staff within each of our providers who have contributed to our achievements and to making a difference to the people of Counties Manukau.

Geraint Martin
Chief Executive

1960 completed Galbraith and Obstetrical blocks. These two buildings doubled the number of beds in the hospital.

