

TO: JACKIE BROUGHTON
FROM: HOSPICE TARANAKI
SUBJECT: SOUTH TARANAKI HEALTH REVIEW
DATE: June 14, 2011

It appears that Hospice Taranaki has not been identified as a stakeholder in this process and has therefore not had the opportunity to offer any input to the process.

Hospice Taranaki and Hospice Taranaki patients are users of the Hawera Hospital particularly with regard to access to two hospital rooms if the rooms are not being used for acute patients.

- In a long standing agreement between TDHB and Hospice Taranaki two bedrooms have been designated as being available for symptom management, respite care or terminal stage care for palliative patients domiciled in South Taranaki.
- In return for this access the Hospice Taranaki South Taranaki committee has maintained and furnished the rooms with additional patient comforts at its own cost.
- These have included lazyboy chairs, televisions, wardrobes and artwork.
- Certainly not all South Taranaki patients have utilised these rooms and many are admitted to Te Rangimarie in New Plymouth. Nonetheless these rooms are a valuable option for patients and families and avoids the need for the extra travel at a very stressful time.
- In the past 11 months there have been 11 patients admitted to Hawera Hospital; in the year previous there were 25. The reason for the reduction stems from the difficulties with the changing medical staff in Hawera Hospital and developing their palliative care expertise. There are up to 25 palliative patients at any one time in the South Taranaki area.
- There have been occasions when through the hospital we have been able to access drugs in emergency which have not been available from pharmacy.

SOUTH TARANAKI PATIENTS DESERVE A COMPARABLE LEVEL OF CARE AND SERVICES AS THOSE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN OR NEAR NEW PLYMOUTH

While palliative patients may be small in number in the overall scheme of things we want to be sure that their interests are not overlooked in any re-design of services available in the area.

We believe that:

- The two palliative beds in Hawera must be maintained. The most cost-efficient location for these beds is at Hawera Hospital.
- Medical staff need to be upskilled in palliative care so that symptom management and terminal stage care can be provided in the area.
- Ideally there needs to be a palliative care champion within the Hospital.

Hospice Taranaki Inc.

- Patients and families facing the end of life should not be faced with having to be transferred to New Plymouth.

We have requested an opportunity to meet with the review team and look forward to that opportunity as part of the consultation process.

Hospice Taranaki is willing to provide on-going palliative education and support to clinical staff and to work as part of a collaborative model.

We do acknowledge that health services are facing challenges and we want to signal our willingness to work in a co-operative way to ensure a satisfactory outcome for palliative patients and families in the area.



Kevin Nielsen
CHIEF EXECUTIVE