



*Waitematā*  
District Health Board

**Best Care for Everyone**



**Volunteering Auckland**  
Ohu Tūao o Tāmaki Makaurau

13 September, 2019

**Comments from Cheryll Martin, General Manager and Rich Easton, Chair at Volunteering Auckland:**

“Waitematā DHB recently approached us for advice on the use of petrol vouchers for their volunteer workforce, as part of their review of best practice. There are clear guidelines from Inland Revenue that determine how volunteers can be reimbursed, which were discussed with the DHB.

Volunteering Auckland believes that the Waitematā DHB is operating in a way that is consistent with the Inland Revenue’s guidelines and we support the approach the DHB is taking.

Volunteering Auckland encourages Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIO’s) to find the best way to recognise their vital volunteer workforce, where they are able. Without volunteers a large number of not-for-profit organisations would be unable to operate and the impact to the communities they serve would be immense.”

**Comments from David Price, Director of Patient Experience at Waitematā DHB:**

“The budget allocated to our volunteers is absolutely not under threat in any way. We are currently working with our volunteers to determine how this money can be best used to support all of our volunteers.

We were trying to do the right thing by reviewing our approach to petrol vouchers and ensuring we are complying with IRD guidelines. Our volunteers have been fully included within this process. If the volunteers would prefer to continue with the vouchers they can do so. However, they will need to be cognisant of IRD guidelines and manage this issue for themselves.

Our volunteers make an important contribution to our organisation and we are very grateful for their commitment to our organisation.”

**ENDS**