



Waitemata
District Health Board

Best Care for Everyone

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New child and adolescent mental health service for North Rodney

A new Waitemata District Health Board Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service was opened on Monday, December 12 in Orewa to address significant population growth in north Rodney and reduce the need for referrals elsewhere.

The service is based at Tamariki Ave and will eventually house nine new fulltime clinical staff, including a psychiatrist. Half of the new Child and Adolescent Mental Health team is already in place and the DHB is in the process of recruiting the remainder.

The building will also be used by teams based elsewhere to deliver health services to young people and their families living in north Rodney.

The move is a direct response to substantial overall youth population growth in Rodney where an 8.8% rise in the 0-19 year age group was recorded between 2006 and 2013. The DHB has also experienced a growing number of referrals from Rodney to its existing child and adolescent mental health services in Auckland's western suburbs and on its north shore.

DHB Chief Executive Dr Dale Bramley says the organisation's Mental Health Service has tailored the north Rodney solution to ensure the right treatment is available in the right place, at the right time.

"We know childhood and adolescence represents the period with the greatest opportunity to reduce the impact of mental health and addiction issues through effective early intervention, and this is what this significant investment aims to address for Rodney families," Dr Bramley says. "The increase in staffing proposed for Rodney will address this demand and greatly enhance access to a high quality mental health services for local families and whānau."

Staff based in the Orewa facility will have the flexibility to travel to meet demand within the broader north Rodney area. The development of the service reflects the DHB's ongoing commitment to measure demand and provide high quality, accessible child and adolescent mental health services as the population grows.

Ends

Note: Media wanting to attend the opening are asked to register in advance

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