



**Waitemata**

District Health Board

**Best Care for Everyone**

**Communications Dept**

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### **Completing the census is good for your health**

Volunteers will be working the wards at Waitemata DHB hospitals over the next few weeks, helping patients take part in Census 2018.

Everyone will receive special access codes in the post from Stats New Zealand from 23 February that will enable them to fill in their forms on or before March 6 using laptops, desktops, tablets and mobile phones.

Waitemata DHB, which offers free Wi-Fi at its Waitakere and North Shore Hospitals, is taking steps to make sure its patients have everything they need to participate.

Patients who have their access codes will be supplied with iPads on request and volunteers will be available to help them log on and finish the task. Paper forms will also be available for those who prefer them and the DHB can, wherever possible, organise interpreters for people who have difficulties with English.

The census takes place every five years and is an official count of how many people and dwellings there are in New Zealand. Confidentiality is guaranteed by Stats NZ and no data that can identify any individual is shared with other government agencies without consent.

“Information from the census helps determine how billions of dollars of government funding is spent in the community,” Waitemata DHB Director of Patient Experience David Price says. “It is used to help make decisions about which services are needed and where they should be.

“Waitemata DHB cares for the largest DHB population in the country and the numbers just keep rising. We therefore need to be sure that every one of our people is properly accounted for and that Waitemata DHB is funded accordingly. Every dollar we receive contributes towards better health outcomes for patients.”

Mr Price says census data helps the DHB plan for the future – deciding what services are required and where they should be in order to meet its growing population’s needs. “Completing the census is, quite simply, good for your health,” he says. “We encourage everyone in our catchment – whether they are in hospital or not – to make sure they complete their census this year.”

Call 0800 CENSUS (0800 236 787) for more general information about the census and how you can participate. Alternatively, go online to [census.govt.nz](http://census.govt.nz).

**Ends.**

CAPTION: I-r, Waitemata DHB patient Robin Wallwork investigates his Census 2018 options online with assistance from St John Volunteer Sandra Robertson and Waitemata DHB Director of Patient Experience David Price.

**For further information, contact:**

Waitemata DHB Media Line

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