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Official opening of new home for managed withdrawal inpatient service

A specialised service providing medically supervised withdrawal from alcohol and other drugs has relocated to a modern new city-based Auckland location.

Waitematā DHB is contracted to run the Medically Managed Withdrawal Inpatient Service on behalf of all three metropolitan Auckland DHBs through its Community Alcohol and Drug Service (CADS).

The relocated service was opened today by Minister of Health Andrew Little after shifting from its former home in Pt Chevalier. It now occupies an entire purpose-built floor of the new multi-storey Auckland City Mission - Te Tāpui Atawhai (Mission) HomeGround facility which is due to be officially opened later in the year.

The referrals-only service will work closely with a Social Withdrawal Service managed by the Mission in the same complex.

Patients will be able to transfer to the social withdrawal floor as soon as it is clinically safe and appropriate for them to do so, potentially decreasing the average length-of-stay within the medically managed unit and increasing throughput while reducing wait times.

“The medically managed service is for people who are at high-risk of a complicated withdrawal due to their level of drinking or other drug use,” Waitematā DHB Executive Director, Tier 1 Community Services, Tim Wood says. “The subsequent shift to a social detoxification setting is often considered more appropriate after around seven days when the use of medication at such a level is no longer necessary.

“Colocation of both services is designed to enable a more seamless transition for patients and initial projections suggest it could result in an increase of around 172 admissions per annum on top of the approximately 500 patients who are currently admitted to the unit each year.”

The relocation of the medically managed service was made possible by a \$10.8 million Government funding package in 2018.

“The opportunity for us to provide medical detoxification care in a modern facility right alongside other services offered by the Mission is a major step forward in how this type of treatment is delivered,” Waitematā DHB CEO Dr Dale Bramley says.

“This initiative will help to address the sustained high demand in Auckland for detoxification services. It also presents the opportunity for a new co-located model of care with other services that has the potential to reduce preventable ED presentations and hospital admissions.”

Ends.

For further information, contact:

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