



Waitemata
District Health Board
Best Care for Everyone

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Waitakere Hospital Emergency Department to almost double in size

A major expansion to the physical size and layout of Waitakere Hospital's emergency department is well underway with the new building taking shape on the hospital site.

Waitemata DHB Chief Executive Dr Dale Bramley says the new facility will provide a fit-for-purpose department with high quality, round-the-clock care for the West Auckland community.

"We're very pleased with the progress of the build and look forward to bringing the people of West Auckland a significantly larger, advanced emergency department with extensive patient and whānau facilities."

The multi-million dollar expansion extends the emergency department footprint at Waitakere Hospital by 1313 square metres creating significant extra capacity to meet the needs of West Auckland residents.

The new front-of-house zone, scheduled to open in August, will include an improved patient entranceway, reception and triage areas designed for enhanced patient privacy, and four new ambulance bays with covered hospital access.

Space is also being renovated within the existing emergency department footprint, including the development of a new paediatric zone, enabling greater utilisation of the bed spaces and clinical resources with completion expected in March 2017.

Over the last ten years, the number of patients presenting to the department has increased exponentially with 48,661 seen in the 2014/15 financial year. This is the greatest increase in patient numbers of any emergency department in the country with the department now seeing around the same number of presentations as North Shore Hospital's ED.

"We look forward to opening a state-of-the-art facility that will provide high quality emergency medical care for Waitakere's growing population well into the future," says Dr Bramley.

In addition to the expansion of the emergency department, the number of general medical teams at Waitakere Hospital has recently increased from six to 11. The teams include eight new medical specialists supported by an expanded pool of junior doctors.

"The new teams are reducing the need to transfer patients to North Shore Hospital and enabling patients to be seen more rapidly for admission by general medicine in Waitakere."

"We understand how important it is for Waitakere residents to be treated and cared for at their community hospital and view this increase in medical teams as critical to enhancing the experience of our patients," says Dr Bramley.

The emergency department expansion and increase in medical staff furthers Waitemata DHB's commitment to investing in services and facilities to improve access to health care for the West Auckland community. Other initiatives include:

- The refurbishment of Waitakere Hospital's maternity unit completed in 2015
- The opening of an onsite pharmacy at Waitakere Hospital in 2015, improving access to difficult-to-obtain medicines
- An enhanced acute mental health service based in Waitakere ED, established in 2015
- The development of primary birthing unit options currently in progress
- Refurbishment of family rooms in hospital wards providing a welcoming environment for patients and families



Waitakere Hospital's new emergency department under construction.

ENDS

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