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For immediate release

### **Fifty roses for 50 special DHB people**

It's been nearly a year since Les Thomas was admitted to hospital with a severely infected leg.

But today he is back on his feet and full of praise for the staff and services of Waitemata DHB.

Les visited Waitakere Hospital this week armed with 50 single red roses to show his appreciation to the people he says have made a huge difference in his life.

There were a few tears and hugs along the way as he singled out some of the staff he's come to know so well over the past 12 months.

All of them, he says, make the DHB an asset for the people of Waitemata to be proud of.

"I've been treated with the greatest courtesy, kindness and medical expertise you could ever wish to get. This place is awesome and the people who work here have become an important and special part of my life.

The Glen Eden resident visits the hospital regularly as an outpatient and says he always leaves with a smile on his face. "Coming here has made my life easier and I will never forget the lovely staff who work here," he says.

Les says he initially feared he might lose part of his injured leg.

So he's thrilled to be walking - sometimes with the aid of a crutch, and getting his strength back.

"I'm definitely on the mend," he says. "But it's been a long journey and I've got a way to go yet. However, it's a comfort to I know I'm in the best hands possible."

Waitemata DHB CEO Dr Dale Bramley stepped in to thank Les after hearing what he was doing.

"We have an organisational promise to deliver best care to everyone and we aim to do that every day with compassion," he says.

"Les shows us just how important both of those concepts are in modern healthcare and his kind act of appreciation validates what we are doing in a very meaningful way. This was an incredibly nice thing for him to do and it is greatly appreciated by all of us."

**Ends**

Caption: Waitemata DHB CEO Dr Dale Bramley, registered nurse Margaret Rhind and happy patient Les Thomas

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