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5 June 2019

### **Generous support helps make refurbished Waitakere Hospital chapel a reality**

A new multi-faith spiritual centre, Wairua Tapu, Chapel of the Holy Spirit, was officially opened by Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) at Waitakere Hospital yesterday.

The facility is designed to cater for people of all faiths and features a prayer room and main chapel that opens out to a sunlight-drenched deck and serene landscaped courtyard.

The project was made possible by more than \$300,000 in generous donations to the Well Foundation, the DHB's official fundraising body. In addition, community groups have kindly donated sacred items and furnishings of significance to their faith and cultures.

Today's opening was officiated by Māori kaumatua as well as Catholic Bishop Patrick Dunn and Anglican Bishop Ross Bay.

Students from Liston College, Massey High School and a choir from the Cavalry Wesleyan Methodist Church of New Zealand assisted with the event.

The opening, attended by more than 200 people, was the first in a week of events that will also involve members of the Māori, Pasifika, Asian, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist communities.

Waitematā DHB Chief Executive Dr Dale Bramley said the new space allows the DHB to cater for the spiritual needs of patients, their families and whānau. It also provides a much needed tranquil space for the many staff based at Waitakere Hospital.

"Our DHB's primary purpose is to relieve suffering and to promote wellbeing but it is important that we cater for more than just the physical needs of our patients," he says.

"For people who may be going through a difficult time personally or in relation to a loved one, it is important that we offer a space for reflection, contemplation and, for those who are so inclined, prayer."

"I would, on behalf of our DHB, like to thank all those who have supported this project, especially the generous donors, who made Wairua Tapu possible."

Waitematā DHB opened a multi-faith Spiritual Centre, 'Ahurewa', at North Shore Hospital in 2015.

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**For further information contact:**

[Waitemata DHB media line - 09 4871276](tel:094871276)