

09 April 2021

Prime Minister opens new unit at Mason Clinic

E Tū Tanekaha, Waitematā DHB's new state-of-the art 15-bed medium secure unit at the Mason Clinic, was opened today by the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, and Minister of Health Hon Andrew Little.



From left: Waitematā DHB CEO Dr Dale Bramley, Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Waitematā DHB Board Chair Dr Judy McGregor and Chief Advisor Tikanga, Dame Rangimārie Naida Glavish at the opening of E Tū Tanekaha today. [Click here for high-res image access.](#)

Waitematā DHB has one of the fastest-growing populations of any DHB in New Zealand and provides specialist forensic mental health services for the entire Northern region, serving a population of nearly 2 million people.

This new unit is part of an extensive programme of facility upgrades and expansion for the regional forensic service.

“Our commitment is to provide modern world-class specialist forensic mental health services for our region,” says CEO Dr Dale Bramley.

“The opening of E Tū Tanekaha is another major milestone in the ongoing renaissance and development of the regional forensic service. It is part of our ongoing commitment to provide best care to everyone – especially those longer-term service users for whom these facilities are, essentially, home.”

E Tū Tanekaha (which means stand strong Tanekaha), replaces a smaller 10-bed unit that was demolished in 2019. The new unit has been designed to flexibly accommodate different patient populations requiring secure care in a clinically and culturally appropriate environment.

“This new unit will allow us to provide quality care in modern, well-designed facilities,” says Board Chair Dr Judy McGregor.

“It is a safe and healthy working environment for our clinicians and others who provide that care to do their jobs in.”

Our aim is to move all service-users out of the older facilities as soon as funding becomes available for the new facilities. New land was acquired around the site in 2019 to support this ongoing development of the service.

Design work is now underway on the next unit, E Tū Wairua Hinengaro, and a business case will be submitted shortly for the next unit after that. When both units are completed, a combined total of 60 beds will then be in place which will enable the movement of all remaining service-users to these new facilities.

The Mason Clinic serves the populations of the Northland, Waitematā, Auckland and Counties Manukau DHBs, which collectively totals 1.9 million people. Mental health services have been delivered from the site since 1865. The Mason Clinic has 114 mental health beds and 12 forensic intellectual disability beds and provides a base for all other Auckland Regional Forensic Service operations. The site includes medium secure, minimum secure and open units to facilitate recovery and community reintegration, with a focus on acute treatment and rehabilitation. In 2017, the Te Aka facility opened, which was designed to support a kaupapa Māori approach to clinical care.

The redevelopment of the Mason Clinic, including the provision of additional capacity, is consistent with the Northern Region Long Term Investment Plan as well as National and Regional Mental Health Services Strategies.

Ends.

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For further information, contact:

Waitematā DHB Media Line, ph. 4871276