

IMG Update 13 June 2011

Staff transition progressing

Staff at the community hospital, Joan Whiting rest home and medical centre met this week to discuss the next steps towards building an integrated team.

The transition of staff is part of developing the Integrated Family Health Centre service at Golden Bay's community hospital.

Staff of all three services met with Nelson Bays Primary Health chief executive Andrew Swanson Dobbs, while Nelson Marlborough District Health Board chief executive John Peters attended the hospital staff meeting on Monday and Joan Whiting trust chair Chris Mitson met rest home staff on Tuesday.

The meetings were designed to keep staff updated on the overall project and to explain the process involved in bringing the people together.

The plan is to work towards merging the three staffs in parallel with work on enlarging and renovating the building. A transition plan will be prepared, with input from staff, clinical leaders and unions, and involves a formal consultation process. No date has been identified for staff to complete the transfer.

Creating one team will involve developing a new management structure, designing new rosters, standardising systems and processes and building a new culture.

Mr Swanson Dobbs said, as with other aspects of the project, the intention is to work collaboratively with staff.

"There will be a lot happening over the next few months and we want everyone to be kept in the loop and involved in the process."

He said the new integrated service would mean some new roles, or changes to existing roles. Planning is also underway to advertise for a service director to run the facility.

The update also shows construction of the enlarged facility is now expected to be completed in August next year. The timeline has been extended because of some delays in various approvals.