

Media Release

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New Clinical School premises opened by Minister

The Minister of Health Tony Ryall opened the new Tauranga premises of the Bay of Plenty Clinical School today.

The Clinical School has moved into a permanent home in Pohutukawa House, a building that began life as accommodation for student nurses.

“It seems a natural cycle to return this space to students training in health and medical disciplines,” says DHB Chief Executive Officer Phil Cammish.

The Clinical School was established in 2007 as a inter-disciplinary training centre for students studying towards health sector careers. It is well on the way to achieving its strategic goals of bringing students to the Bay of Plenty, via tertiary education providers around the country.

“The school is a key strand in our long term workforce development and retention strategies,” says Mr Cammish. “Research indicates that students who have a positive experience in a training location are more likely to return to that area to work, once they are qualified.”

The Clinical School is also fostering a quality research environment for health practitioners.

Several hundred students of physiotherapy, nursing, medicine, social work and other disciplines have fulfilled training placements at Tauranga and Whakatane Hospitals since the Clinical School began.

The appointment of a new Head of Clinical School this month has helped ensure the School’s ongoing development. Internationally renowned urologist Mr Peter Gilling (FRACS) has a long association with the Bay of Plenty. He is a pioneer of robotic

surgery and has a distinguished career that has encompassed both surgery and research.

Mr Ryall applauded the DHB for taking the initiative with establishing a high quality regional centre for health sector students.

“Small centres can be enormously influential in nurturing and keeping graduates, by providing excellent training experiences. This is going to be a powerful way of maintaining a workforce in hard to staff areas and specialties,” he said.

While at Tauranga Hospital, the Minister visited wards 3a and 2b, where the internationally recognised ‘Releasing Time to Care’ programme is having a positive impact for staff and patients.

The programme is focused on increasing nurse time with patients, through improving processes, reducing waste and having required equipment easily accessible.



Minister of Health Tony Ryall shares his view for the future of health in the region with CEO Phil Cammish

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