

# Media Release

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## **Public-private venture helps new docs**

An agreement signed between the BOPDHB and Norfolk Southern Cross's Grace Hospital last week paves the way for student doctors to gain experience working across the public-private spectrum.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Bay of Plenty Clinical School and Grace Hospital formalises a decision to cooperate on research projects, training initiatives and facilities in the region.

Grace Hospital has kicked started the relationship with a \$5000 donation to the clinical school to support two summer studentships.

BOPDHB chair Mary Hackett says a good working relationship between the public and private sector in the Bay has developed over the years.

"Ultimately we hope to strengthen this relationship further and have students coming up to Grace Hospital to expand their skills," she said.

With a significant amount of elective surgery occurring at the Grace Hospital, student doctors would be able to experience a wider range of techniques and operations.

Head of the Clinical School urologist and Associate Professor Peter Gilling is delighted the relationship is being formalised. "There is already a huge amount of collaboration and this brings a new level to what the clinical school can offer students coming to the region."

Norfolk Southern Cross managing director Michael Ludbrook says the alignment of the public and private health providers will enable a stronger service to be offered in the region.

"I was very excited the DHB had taken the initiative to develop a clinical school. It's a huge attraction in terms of recruitment," he said.

“The summer studentship grant to the clinical school is another example to show how important we think the school is to the region, Grace Hospital and the DHB.”  
Local Member of Parliament Simon Bridges attended the signing on Friday, and handed certificates to the studentship recipients, Justin Mathews and Shannon Carter.  
“Having a clinical school is a very significant step for our city,” he said. “It adds to the sense that Tauranga is going places.”



*Summer studentship recipients Shannon Carter and Justin Mathews, with MP Simon Bridges.*

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