

Auckland District Health Board

Communications

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ADHB Media Release

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ADHB achieves four of six national health targets

The Ministry of Health has today released the final 2010-11 national health target results and Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) has achieved four out of six of the Government's key performance benchmarks.

ADHB CEO (Acting), Denis Jury said that the outcomes are great news for the people of Auckland and are the result of huge effort from determined and hardworking staff and community partners.

"Despite a growing demand for our services we've managed to deliver higher volumes of quality healthcare," said Dr. Jury. "This year's achievements are especially noteworthy as they come during a time of increased funding pressure.

"I think it is important to thank the staff from ADHB for their tremendous dedication and hard work and innovation that has driven our performance gains. It's truly an achievement that they can be proud of," Dr. Jury said.

Elective Surgery

Dr. Jury noted that the ADHB had exceeded targets put in place for improved access to elective surgery with approximately 11,182 discharges delivered. This marks a phenomenal 18 percent lift in the discharge rate from last year.

This could be, in part, credited to the new Greenlane Surgical Unit which was opened at the end of April 2011 by the Minister of Health, Hon. Tony Ryall. The Unit includes three new operating theatres and allows the streamlining of elective surgeries and shorter waiting times for patients.

Immunisation

Quarter four saw a four per cent increase in the ADHB's immunisation rates of toddlers to 92%. "This is a truly fantastic result," said Dr. Jury, "as it exceeds the health target by 2% and helps us to ensure our young people are best placed for a healthy future."

Emergency Departments

ADHB also managed to improve their performance against the shorter stays in emergency departments indicator. Dr. Jury said that 95 per cent of patients are required to be admitted, discharged or transferred from ED within six hours and a 1 per cent improvement this quarter means the ADHB have met this target.

Radiation

Once again, the team at the Regional Cancer and Blood Service have maintained their 100 per cent record ensuring that patients requiring radiation treatment to be seen within four weeks of their specialist appointment, Dr. Jury said.

"Initially, the target was set at six weeks however this was revised from January 1. We've maintained our 'perfect' success rate in both the third and final quarters of the year even though there was a change."

Smoking

Despite missing the national health target, the ADHB's result of 80 per cent represents a continued improvement over the quarter.

The indicator requires that 90 per cent of hospitalised smokers are provided with advice and help to quit.

“The result represents an eight per cent increase on last quarter – equivalent to an additional 6000 smokers that we offered help to,” said Dr. Jury. “The rate has improved markedly from the previous year also, and demonstrates that ongoing improvements in processes are having positive effects.”

Diabetes and Cardiovascular Services

Dr. Jury said that in the diabetes and cardiovascular target, the ADHB set themselves some very challenging targets.

“Our results compare favourably across the region, although there is still much more to do. We are taking lessons learnt onboard in order to bolster our knowledge and develop best practice procedure to assist in improving these services,” Dr. Jury said.

He continued, “The healthcare industry is a challenging environment that is in constant flux. As such, the demands on our people are ever changing as we search for ways of providing quality healthcare,” says Dr. Jury. “Our performance in the national health targets demonstrates our commitment to continuing improvement for the people of Auckland.”

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