



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### ADHB making positive health care delivery gains

Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) continues to make positive health care delivery gains toward the Government's performance focussed targets, says Chief Executive Garry Smith.

Target results, which were published by the Ministry of Health today, set down the Government's expectations of all 21 District Health Boards across the six sectors, ranking them according to performance.

Mr Smith said ADHB had improved on its performance across four target areas covering emergency departments, immunisation, better help for smokers and better diabetes and cardiovascular services while continuing to exceed expectations in elective surgery at 111%. The only slight dip in performance relates to the Northern Region's requirement to deliver shorter waits for radiation therapy with achievement against the six week target varying between 89% and 98% across the four district health boards that the centre serves.

Mr Smith said ADHB had worked hard to improve on its first quarter results published in November last year and was pleased with the promising improvements that had been made. However, a combination of an influx of referrals as well as a machine being decommissioned for replacement late last year had resulted in the Northern Region Radiation Therapy Service falling short of its first quarter 100% result.

The service, which is managed by ADHB, had proactively managed the influx to try and continue to meet its target, but the waiting time had stretched from the 6 week target to approximately 6.3 weeks.

"To manage that peak and ensure the best outcome for patients, the Service opened for longer operating hours, including evening shifts to ensure the majority of patients were able to receive their treatment at Auckland City Hospital.

“Some patients were also offered the opportunity to have their radiation therapy at Waikato District Health Board to ensure they received treatment in a timely manner. A small number of patients took up that opportunity with travel and accommodation expenses covered by the regional service.”

Mr Smith said despite the result, the Service had achieved positive results in 2009 by slashing waiting times in half and would continue to strive to claw its way back to a 100% result, which includes working toward a reduced 4 week target later this year.

-ENDS-

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