



AUCKLAND DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

Communications

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## **ADHB Media Release**

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### **Specialist Care and Protection Unit**

Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) strongly supports the work of its Specialist Care and Protection Unit, which operates to the highest of international standards.

The General Manager of Clinical Services, Women's and Children's Health, Kay Hyman, says the unit provides an important public service in identifying children who have potentially sustained non-accidental injuries.

"We have a close working relationship with international paediatricians and our processes represent world's best practice," Mrs Hyman said.

"The child protection team works in close association with other clinical paediatric services within the hospital, not in isolation.

"Health practitioners are required to consider all potential diagnoses and we maintain an open mind on each case and consult carefully.

"Decisions on potential non-accidental injuries of children are not made lightly and are subject to extensive review.

"I acknowledge that these situations are stressful for families and that they need to be kept well-informed."

"We work hard to action feedback we get from parents that will improve our service and concentrate on resolving matters in the shortest possible time. We have for example enhanced the on-call testing service to make sure results are not delayed by weekends. The service also reviewed and updated the information that parents receive about the length of time our processes take and responded with changes."

"We also invest significant energy in investigating other potential clinical conditions and in obtaining child health histories to determine whether there are possible accidental causes of injuries. ADHB makes no apology for investigating the possibility of non-accidental injuries."

"Our primary obligation is to the child and, in some cases, this requires investigations that are uncomfortable for parents. We welcome scrutiny including that of the Health and Disability Commissioner who can and does investigate cases as he sees fit."

**ENDS**

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