



Helen Mason

Healthy, thriving communities, Kia Momoho Te Hāpori Ōranga.



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- Have you noticed how much busier the Bay of Plenty seems to be now compared to 12 months ago?
- Have you noticed increased traffic on our roads?
- Are you wondering what this might mean for our DHB, if growth continues at this rate?

The strong population growth we've seen over the recent years in the Bay of Plenty is predicted to continue with the current population of 222,000 increasing by a further 9.7% by 2025. Most of this growth will happen in the Western Bay.

Given this growth, we need to plan ahead for the next eight to 10 years so that we can continue to provide health services that best meet the needs of our population, in an affordable way.

We have recently started work on developing a Bay of Plenty Health Services Plan. It will provide a clear long term vision and plan for where the Bay of Plenty health system needs to be in the next 10 years. It will enable planning for future healthcare services, workforce, IT, capital investment, quality and other business dimensions, where strategic priorities will be identified.

We're seeking to achieve an outcome which identifies how services are best positioned for the community to meet their needs over the medium-term, and to identify what changes are needed in provider capacity, capability, and the model of care. Improved patient outcomes is a key expectation, as is better value for money, service quality and timeliness, higher levels of patient satisfaction, better service integration and patient flow.

The intent is that we develop a whole-of-system health services plan that will provide a framework linking our vision, strategic priorities, key outcomes, and provide a roadmap with measures, to guide implementation and enable tracking of progress against the Plan.

We will draw on the rich collection of data from within and outside the DHB, so we are not duplicating resources and reinventing the wheel. It is hoped that Health Services Plan will be completed by October this year. We'll keep you updated on progress and let you know how you can learn more about this.

Meeting you ...

When I took up my role as CEO I said that I would spend time with different parts of the organisation 'shadowing' staff as they go about their daily duties.

Recently I spent a great morning with Jude Ebbett, our People Development Advisor, who is based in the Education Centre.

Jude has supported more than 1000 staff to consider their career paths, and explore options for career progression. Jude spoke about being impressed with the dedication of our team members. How so many of the team want to progress their careers and make an even greater contribution to our DHB. Jude shared with me how many of our team have qualifications which they bring with them which are not direct requirements of the role they fill, and which significantly add to the richness of our workforce.

I also had the opportunity to catch up with other members of the Education team. I was impressed with how proactive they are. They've developed a number of programs and approaches which I believe will be really helpful to our DHB as we move forward. They've heard about issues from staff, thought about what the solutions might be, and then designed them.

Unfortunately the library team weren't able to join the Education Centre-based Clinical School staff when I was with them. Thanks to Jude and the team for a great morning and for all they do to help us fill our roles as well as we can.



From left, CEO Helen Mason, with members of the Education Team, Administration Support Colleen Lambourne, Learning Technology Manager Anne Stevens, People Development Advisor Jude Ebbett, Education Manager Penny Horton and Administration Support Ann Murray.

Always plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

Cardinal Richard Cushing (1895 – 1970) American prelate of the Roman Catholic Church, Archbishop of Boston 1944-1970, created a cardinal in 1958.

Working outside our traditional health boundaries...

As we think about our growing population, we're aware that there is greater complexity of health care needs, and there are more people with high health and social care needs. Many factors influence this growth. Some of the major health problems increasing in the BOP are diabetes, heart and lung diseases, and some cancers which can be prevented and better managed, and are influenced by where we live, learn, work and play.

We know that access to, and quality of healthcare services, has a part to play in achieving good health. We also know that many of the greatest influences lie outside of the health sector's direct control. These influences include environmental, social and economic factors such as: warm, dry, affordable and accessible housing; clean air and water; access to public transport; safe walking and cycle ways; access to healthy food; safe green spaces for recreation; social connectedness; educational achievement and job opportunities.

These influences are complex, linked through many factors and influenced by many different agencies. Only by working together can we improve the health and well-being of all. We're currently looking to identify how we can work better with other agencies and local government, to contribute to our communities being truly healthy and thriving.



Message from our Board Chair, Sally Webb

Former chief executive of the Bay of Plenty Area Health Board, Dr Ian McPherson died last week. Dr McPherson was appointed to the role in 1989 and led the work required by the Government of the day to set up the new entity. One task was to separate the funder and provider roles.

Offices were established in Te Puke and I had the pleasure, as the chairperson of the Area Health Board, to work alongside Ian as we established the Bay of Plenty Area Health Board.

Ian was later with Southern Cross Healthcare for a number of years before being appointed interim chief executive for Hutt Valley and Wairarapa District Health Boards which he stood down from in 2015 due to illness.