



Helen Mason

Healthy, thriving communities, Kia Momoho Te Hāpori Ōranga.



7 September 2018



(From left): Deputy Board Chair Ron Scott, Georgina Kiliffen, Isaac Smith, Hon Dr David Clark, CE Helen Mason, Professor Peter Gilling, Dr Prue McCallum, Clinical Research Development Manager Charlie Stratton.

It was great to have Health Minister the Honorable Dr David Clark visit us recently on his second trip to the Bay as Minister. He spent the morning with us at Tauranga Hospital and had been hoping to visit Whakatāne Hospital as well but unfortunately his travel commitments didn't allow this. We have agreed that next time he comes to the Bay it will be to visit Whakatāne, as he's really keen to meet with the team there and understand more about the work going on in the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

We took the opportunity to share with Dr Clark the recent innovations in our Allied Health Services. Our Executive Director of Allied Health, Scientific and Technical Martin Chadwick presented on the Allied Health workforce so the Minister got a picture of how complex it is. Allied Health is a grouping of over 30 individual professions. Usually it is acknowledged as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work, dietetics and speech and language; however it includes another 25 professions.

Allied Health is a critical part of the healthcare workforce, having a very significant impact on patient care, and Martin's presentation included examples of where the service has achieved very real change for our patients. We also shared some recent innovations in Allied Health which the Minister was very impressed with.

We took the opportunity to visit our Clinical Trials Unit. The Bay of Plenty Clinical Trials Unit is a self-funding unit within the Bay of Plenty Clinical School Charitable Trust. It coordinates clinical research undertaken at our DHB and is the entry point for the approval of all investigator-led and sponsor-funded research undertaken here. The unit is one of the few standalone clinical trials units among New Zealand's 20 DHBs. The Minister was very interested to understand the amount of research that is undertaken in the Bay and the high regard that our unit is held in by the research companies.

At the unit he also got the opportunity to meet Isaac Smith and Georgina Kiliffen, who are two medical students who have been through the Rural Health Interprofessional Programme (RHIP) in Whakatāne.

The Minister was keen to learn more about the programme and the fact that it gives student doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists and other Allied Health staff the opportunity to live and work together, gaining an insight into, and respect for, each other's professions. He was interested to discover that three of the junior doctors soon to be joining our ranks at Whakatāne Hospital came through the RHIP as 5th Year students.

At Grand Round a couple of weeks ago I asked those attending to send me any messages they wanted passing on to the Minister. I just wanted to reassure those who did so, that their messages were faithfully passed on and that the Minister was pleased to receive these from our teams.

The BOPDHB evolves

With the increasing volumes and pressures we are facing as a DHB, we need to focus our attention on how we effect change within our services at greater pace, to evolve and adapt quickly enough to continue providing a great service to our communities.

Over the course of the last year we have evolved our CARE values and now we need to put our minds to how we evolve the services we deliver. There is going to be some intense effort put into this area over the course of the next couple of months, and I look forward to engaging with people over the course of that time.

“The art of life is a constant readjustment to our surroundings.”

Kakuzō Okakura, Japanese scholar, 1863-1913