



AUCKLAND DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

Communications

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A Year Of Progress Against National Health Targets

Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) achieved good progress in all six national performance target areas measured by the Government in 2009-10, Chief Executive Officer Garry Smith said today.

Mr Smith said ADHB achieved or exceeded the Government's performance targets in three key areas of service delivery – improved access to elective surgery, shorter waits for cancer treatment radiotherapy and increased immunisation.

“These are tremendous performances made possible by the diligence of our staff – and all achieved whilst living within our financial means,” Mr Smith said.

“Thanks to the efforts of staff, we have seen real improvements on the ground which are making a positive difference to those in our care, be it through shorter waiting times, improved access to services or better help with their health issues.

“We work in a challenging environment that requires us to continually find new and innovative ways of providing quality healthcare. Process improvement and clinical leadership are central to that challenge.”

ADHB exceeded the target for increasing elective surgery volumes, with service delivery now up by 36 per cent over the last three years.

There was also 100 per cent compliance with the target of having all people in need of radiation treatment receiving it within six weeks of their first specialist assessment.

In addition, ADHB achieved the target of having 85 per cent of two-year-olds fully-immunised.

Mr Smith said ADHB was still working hard to overcome challenges in the remaining target areas – shorter stays in emergency departments, better help for smokers to quit and better diabetes and cardiovascular services.

“In those areas where our performance has fallen short of the targets, we have still shown solid progress and laid the foundations for further improvements this year with system changes to further improve our services,” Mr Smith said.

ADHB has posted significant improvements over the last year against the target for shorter stays in emergency departments.

Whilst falling short of having 95 per cent of patients admitted, discharged or transferred from emergency departments within six hours, a number of changes continue to be implemented to improve patient flow.

In providing better help for smokers to quit, ADHB finished the year with 66 per cent of hospitalised smokers being provided advice and help to quit in June. Whilst this is short of the 80 per cent national target, the July figure of 69 per cent provides reason for optimism about ongoing progress.

Meeting performance targets for better diabetes and cardiovascular services remains challenging but ADHB’s performance continues to improve. The target for CVD risk assessment was exceeded in the final quarter, including specific targets for Maori and Pacific peoples.

However, diabetes detection and follow-up remains behind target, whilst targets for Maori, Pacific and Asian populations is being met.

ADHB is near target for good diabetes management and long-term planning is in place to ensure benchmarks are met.

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