



Erica Duthie creating tape art in the hospital main entrance

## Hospital art project

Tape artist Erica Duthie has started an artist-in-residence programme at Hutt Hospital.

Over the next few months she will be working with staff, patients and their families to create tape art murals in the hospital.

This will take the form of a "mural-by-request", where Erica draws what others request. She will also facilitate 'mini-drawing sessions' so those with energy can create their own art work with her help.

Erica has been a guest artist-in-residence at a number of American and British hospitals and we are lucky to have her here.

The project is funded by the Creative New Zealand's Creative Communities grant scheme through the Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils.

## Board meetings

Hospital Advisory Committee  
11.00am Friday 24 February 2012  
Hutt Valley DHB Boardroom

Community & Public Health Advisory Committee  
9.00am Monday 12 March 2012  
Hutt Valley DHB Boardroom

Board Meeting  
9.00am Friday 16 March 2012  
Hutt Valley DHB Boardroom

Disability Support Advisory Committee  
1.00pm Monday 14 May 2012  
Capital & Coast DHB Boardroom

Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings. Meeting agendas are available on our website - [www.huttvalleydhb.org.nz](http://www.huttvalleydhb.org.nz)

## Is your family protected from whooping cough?

There are currently more than usual number of cases of whooping cough in our community.

Whooping cough begins with a runny nose and an irritating cough. This develops into fits of coughing which may end in a whooping sound or in vomiting. It can be very serious in babies under 12 months.

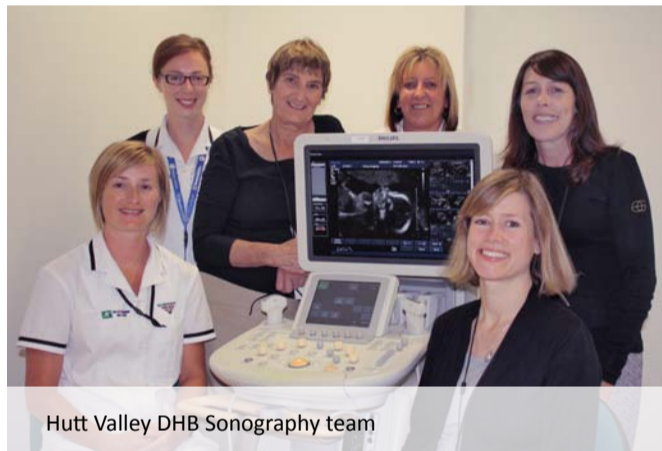
A vaccine, available free for children up to the age of 16, offers the best protection against whooping cough. If your child hasn't had their vaccination please contact your doctor.

## Hutt staff help cut sonography waiting lists

Ultra-sonography is an imaging technique that uses sound waves to construct an image of a body organ allowing medical staff to see veins, body organs, and observe foetal growth. It is becoming the preferred examination for patients as it is non-invasive and no radiation is involved.

There is a national shortage of ultra-sonographers and our neighbouring Wairarapa DHB has not managed to fill the full-time position despite active recruiting.

When their full-time sonographer left in May last year, there were 755 people on the waiting list for non-urgent ultrasounds, with a wait time of up to 9 months.



Hutt Valley DHB Sonography team

"Wairarapa DHB approached us about their situation in the middle of last year and we were able to offer the services of one of our Sonographers for one day a week," says Charge Sonographer Christine Birchall. She and sonographer Dianne Christian alternate visiting the Wairarapa weekly.

With the help of the Hutt Valley DHB sonographers and five weekend locums, Wairarapa Hospital has

reduced the waiting list for patients waiting for non-urgent ultrasounds. The average wait now is 4-6 weeks, with only 317 on the waiting list.

Wairarapa Hospital's Imaging Team Leader, Kim Drysdale, says, "Hutt Valley DHB has helped us turn the numbers around and we are very pleased. We enjoy the partnership we have with Hutt DHB which gives assurance of a regular and sustainable service."

Further discussions are underway to increase the number of days for the sonography service and to investigate a sub-regional training programme for sonographers, such as the provision of supervisors from the larger DHBs to support the rural centres.

## Caring for carers...helping plan respite care

We're pleased to announce the opening of two new dedicated beds for planned respite in the Hutt Valley.

Caring for another person can be challenging so planned 'time out' (respite) is important. Planned respite is where the person you are caring for stays in an aged care facility for an arranged period of time to give you a break.

The dedicated respite care beds are at St Joseph's Home of Compassion in Upper Hutt and Wesleyhaven Village in Naenae. These facilities are experienced in providing respite care. They will work with you to ensure the person you care for has a positive experience and the transition from home and back again is smooth.

To book respite, phone the Service Coordination team on (04) 566 2226 or free phone 0800 662 225. Bookings accepted up to 12 months in advance.

*Additional respite care is available in emergency situations. Respite care is still available at all other facilities.*



People enjoying their respite care experience



(04) 566 6999  
main hospital phone number