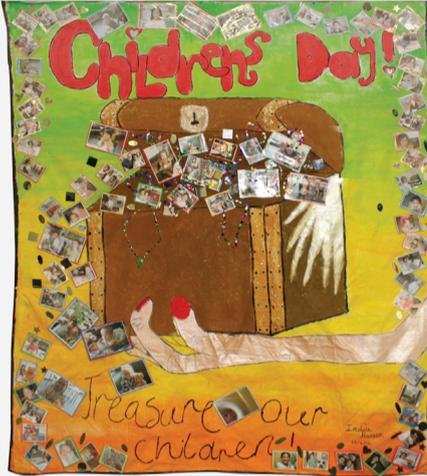


Children's Day 2012



The theme of this year's Children's Day was 'Treasure our children' and young patients at Hutt Hospital designed and made a mural to showcase this idea.

Hospital Play Specialist Tania Pitama said a young patient came up with the idea of designing a treasure chest mural which featured photos of all the children in the ward who wanted to take part. The mural was put up in the children's ward to celebrate Children's Day on March 4.

"For those children who didn't have a photo taken - all the little mirrors throughout the mural are for them - to know that they are treasures too," Ms Pitama says.

The hospital's two play specialists are registered Early Childhood Education teachers who provide recreational programmes in the ward including at a child's bedside if distraction is required during a difficult intervention.

They also help provide opportunities for further learning and exploration during their hospital stay. "Our aim is to promote family well-being, to reduce fear and anxiety for children and their families while accessing hospital services," says Ms Pitama.

"We want children to know they have a place here; to explore, to play and to learn."

Board meetings

Hospital Advisory Committee
11.00am Friday 23 March 2012
Hutt Valley DHB Boardroom

Community & Public Health Advisory Committee
9.00am Monday 16 April 2012
Hutt Valley DHB Boardroom

Board Meeting
9.00am Friday 11 May 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

Upper Hutt community dental clinic opened

The opening of Trentham School's new dental facility signals the halfway mark for the redevelopment of the Wellington region's dental service by Hutt Valley District Health Board.



Troy Monrad, 5, tours the new clinic with Hutt Valley DHB Dental Service Manager Marie Rodgers and BarnaBee.

The honour of being first to tour the new three-chair community dental clinic was given to Trentham School's youngest pupil, new entrant Troy Monrad, age 5 (pictured on the left).

The clinic, based at the school, will look after the treatment needs of Upper Hutt school children who have been assessed as needing further care following a check-up in one of the dental services' mobile vans. Dental care for the region's pre-schoolers will also be based at the clinic.

Upper Hutt Mayor Wayne Guppy attended the opening on Wednesday, February 29, along with the school's 300 pupils.

The clinic has three dental treatment rooms and all new equipment including an X-ray machine and flat-screen TVs - much to the delight of the pupils.

"It's excellent," said nine-year-old Ilaise Tafuna. "You can watch TV in there. In the old clinic you just had to wait."

The Bee Healthy Regional Dental Service was launched in March last year and is run by Hutt Valley DHB for all children in the greater Wellington region aged 0-18 years. The community based dental clinic at Trentham School is the sixth of 11 new facilities to be opened in the region.

Hutt Valley DHB Dental Service Manager Marie Rodgers said it was a great milestone. "Our team has worked hard to create a new image for the service where children will have a positive experience of dental care. We look forward to opening the next five clinics towards the end of this year and early in 2013."



Bee Healthy Dental Therapist Sara Crowther with Awanshika Chand, 5, give the thumbs up to the new treatment facility.

Quitting smoking and greater immunisation rates targeted



The latest data released by the Ministry of Health shows Hutt Valley District Health Board is making great gains in achieving the Health Targets set by the Government.

The targets are a set of national performance measures which district health boards across the country are working to achieve. They include improved access to elective surgery, increased immunisation, shorter stays in emergency departments (ED), better help for smokers to quit and better diabetes and cardiovascular services.



The 2011/2012 quarter two results show a big step forward in Hutt Valley DHB's work to support patients to quit smoking. Data shows the DHB is now exceeding the 95% target set by providing information and support to 97% of patients who smoke. There were also further reductions in ED waiting times.

Further gains have also been made in the delivery of elective surgery and immunisation. Hutt Valley is now just one percent away from achieving the immunisation Health Target of having 95% of two-year-olds fully immunised by July 2012.

Regional Public Health Medical Officer, Annette Nesdale said the focus was on getting as many young children immunised as possible.

"We still have a whooping cough outbreak in the community, so it's absolutely vital people are immunised - this is a serious illness especially in those under one year old."

"Getting vaccinated before winter is important because it's during colder months we spend more time indoors and there is a greater chance of illness spreading person-to-person," she said.



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