COMPANY OVERVIEW

Hutt Valley District Health Board (DHB)

New heights in medical technology
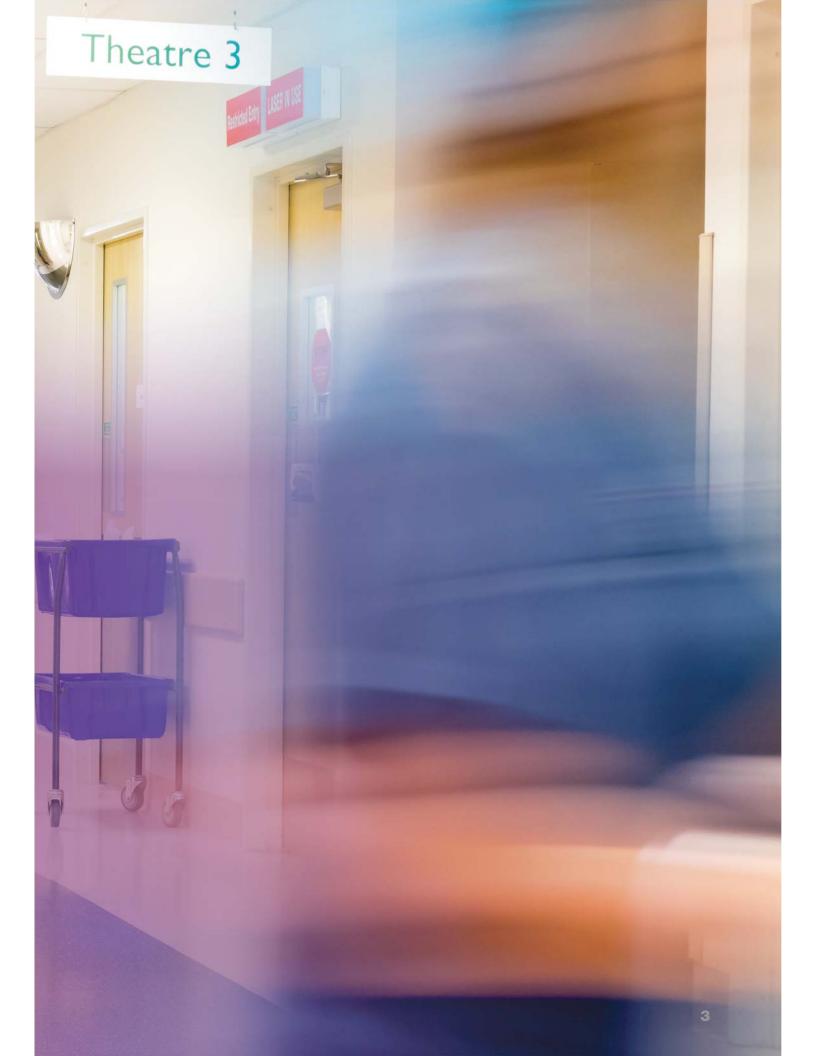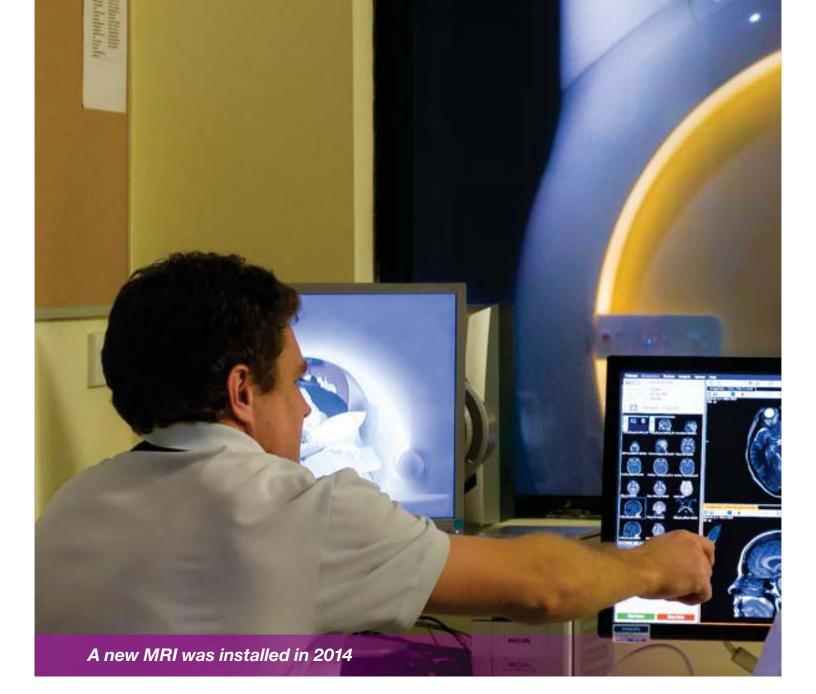
Executive Director Russell Simpson discusses new innovations and expansions for Hutt Valley District Health Board

Written by: Sasha Orman Produced by: Bryan Giles

Theatre 3

Restricted Entry   LASER IN USE

A new MRI was installed in 2014

At the start of 2001, New Zealand's healthcare landscape changed significantly with the passing of the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 and the establishment of district health boards to serve the country's regions and cities. Located 20 minutes from Wellington, the Hutt Valley District Health Board (Hutt Valley DHB) meets the needs of roughly 145,000 citizens of Hutt City, Upper Hutt, Petone, Wainuiomata and Eastbourne. With a focus on technology and structural improvements, Hutt Valley DHB is dedicated to providing a better quality of healthcare for its community with each passing year.

Shorter stays and better service through technology

An important part of quality health care is swift and efficient service, ensuring that patients are able to return to their everyday lives as quickly as possible. As populations grow, meeting that demand with prompt response times grows more difficult.

In 2011, Hutt Valley DHB began laying the groundwork for a sophisticated digital Operation Centre at Hutt Hospital that would use dashboards and tracking

– Russell Simpson
Hutt Valley DHB executive director allied health, scientific and technical

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systems to help achieve new levels of patient service.

"The idea for the centre was born from a group of staff visiting a local manufacturing business which was using new technology for tracking the flow of production," explains Russell Simpson, executive director allied health, scientific and technical for Hutt Valley DHB.

From these small beginnings, a whole team of staff from computer analyst programmers and clinical leads to executive management came up with the concept of an Operations Centre. Subsequent visits to Bay of Plenty and Counties Manukau DHBs further refined the concept of how this technology could work in a hospital setting, and the Hutt Valley team implemented a system which saw the DHB move away from a mainly paper-based tracking system to an electronic one.

Hutt Hospital's new Operation Centre system, which was officially launched in February of 2013 in the hospital's new emergency department and theatre wing, enables heightened organisational visibility to better attend to the individual needs of patients.

"The hospital's activity is coordinated and functions like a 'central brain' that helps staff to take a whole-of-hospital approach to planning, monitoring and resourcing," says Simpson.

Through the use of radio frequency identification devices

New CEO Dr Ashley Bloomfield - the first time that Hutt Valley DHB has been led by a doctor.

HUTT VALLEY DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD (DHB)

(RFIDs) and interconnected LCD screens, staff are able to stay up to date on patient flow across theatres, clinical support services and hospital wards. The centre's dashboard system helps hospital staff track patient triage through the emergency department and staff can view important information such as laboratory results. An added benefit is secure access for staff working remotely; this allows them to have the information contained on the LCD screens at their fingertips.

The process has already seen significant results, helping Hutt Valley DHB rise up in its

Hutt Valley DHB is based at Hutt Hospital, 20 minutes from Wellington