

efforts to meet health targets set through the New Zealand Ministry of Health.

“In May 2015, Hutt Valley DHB’s performance against the target of shorter stays for patients in emergency departments had increased by five per cent, and the DHB had achieved the national target of 95 per cent,” says Simpson. “This means 95 per cent of patients were admitted, discharged, or transferred

from the emergency department within six hours. The target is a measure of the efficiency of flow of acute, or urgent, patients through public hospitals and home again.”

Further innovative developments

To further augment its successful Operation Centre program, Hutt Valley DHB has integrated the



HUTT VALLEY DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD (DHB)



Laboratory staff at work



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use of electronic whiteboards, which have been fitted in all of the hospital's wards. The whiteboards help hospital staff track patient status and yield data points like estimated date of discharge, the care the patient requires from staff in different departments and the length of their stay.

“Developments like this are of immense value to hospital staff, says Simpson. “These enable staff to share information quickly and match staffing to clinical demand, ultimately improving patient safety.”

He adds that the Operations Centre has helped Hutt Valley

DHB effectively combine three key activities—operational planning, resourcing, and daily monitoring / response coordination—to better achieve the following four goals:

- Ensure the hospital can allocate staff with the right skills in the right place for safe patient care across the hospital
- Help the whole hospital to meet its targets
- Help staff to respond more quickly and efficiently to changes in demand and manage variance
- Enable the hospital to forecast predicted demand for significant community events



Centralised sterile supplies department

Hutt Hospital's Emergency Department was part of the redevelopment and extension project in 2012



Simpson says he is still realising the extent of staff's achievement and the amazing contribution they have made towards the development. "Health professionals' from hospitals both here and overseas visit our facility to look at the technological advances we have implemented – that's when the enormity of what we have done here hits home for me."

Building out for efficiency and safety

In addition to its ambitious Operation Centre program, Hutt Valley DHB has improved its infrastructure through physical expansion. In 2012 Hutt Hospital completed the construction of an emergency department and theatre redevelopment and extension project. The \$80 million project consisted of two parts: a 3,000 square-meter refurbishment to the existing hospital structure,

plus a brand new 6,600 square-meter building. Along with a new ED containing high-tech features like satellite imaging and ambulatory care, highlights of the project include:

- A theatre suite with eight operating theatres
- A centralised sterile supplies department
- An expanded specialised facility for pre- and post-operative support
- An extensive carpark for staff and visitors
- A specific area for children called "the tree hutt" in the emergency department and "the tree top" in theatre.

Prior to this build out, Hutt Hospital's suite of four theatres struggled to meet the district's health targets and its growing demand for surgical services.

With this new expansion, says

"Health professionals from hospitals both here and overseas visit our facility to look at the technological advances we have implemented – that's when the enormity of what we have done here hits home for me"

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



Patients and staff alike now experience a modern, spacious specialised environment, purpose-fit for the latest developments in health care.

Simpson, patients and staff alike can experience a modern, spacious environment, purpose-fit for the latest developments in health care. With protected areas and

backup utilities built to withstand outages and fires, the newly built infrastructure also brought Hutt Hospital's emergency department and theatre suite in line with new

and more stringent earthquake requirements that came into effect following the 2011 Christchurch earthquake.

In store for the future of Hutt Valley

Hutt Valley DHB has undergone many exciting changes in the last few years, but there is still more to come. The district welcomed Dr. Ashley Bloomfield on board as CEO in October, marking the first time that Hutt Valley DHB will be led by a doctor. With a background in both medicine and public health, Bloomfield will be well equipped for the challenges of meeting targets and improving the state of wellness in the Hutt Valley.

Hutt Valley DHB will continue to be involved in major collaborations in the near future. Simpson explains that the district is working on hospital service capacity planning with its DHB neighbours, Wairarapa and Capital & Coast DHBs, which are also based within the greater Wellington region. In order to devise a more comprehensive health system, the three DHBs will plan on a regional level to help develop a more sustainable model for high quality health care by 2030.

“Planning collaboratively will allow for the creation of both an individual and collective view of options and ways to optimise the use of resources,” he says. “It also allows sharing of tools and processes used for individual DHB planning.”

Both on its own and as an integral part of the larger district health board network, Hutt Valley DHB is well on its way to creating a healthier New Zealand.

Company Information

INDUSTRY

Construction/Hospitals

HEADQUARTERS

Hutt Valley DHB
Pilmuir House
Hutt Hospital Campus
Lower Hutt
Wellington, New Zealand

FOUNDED

2001

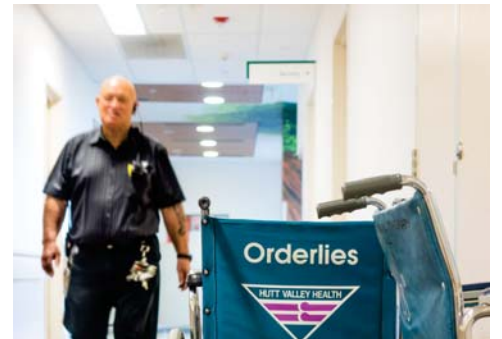
EMPLOYEES

2,400

BUDGET

\$480 million





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