

On the move



Mobile Health Group Newsletter - December 2024

Kia ora koutou,

The holiday season is here, and this is an important time of year to rest after what has been a challenging year for many of us. I would like to acknowledge and thank the supportive relationships with our public and private funders, host sites and their staff. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication. Together, we have treated more than 50,000 people in rural and regional communities over the last 30 years.

We are reminded every day the importance of equity in healthcare. The difference we are making to provide equitable health care is evident through our mobile services via the surgical, lithotripsy and PET-CT unit, ensuring patients across the motu receive the care they need without the burden of travel. However, we acknowledge that there are still challenges to overcome. For instance, patients in the far north and Whangārei now face the inconvenience of travelling to Auckland for kidney stone treatment due to the recent loss of our host site in Whangārei for Mobile Medical. This situation highlights the ongoing struggle to achieve true equity in healthcare. Despite this setback, we remain dedicated to finding solutions that bring us closer to our goal of equitable healthcare for all. Additionally, our online education programme empowers rural health professionals with access to high-quality healthcare education. My Health Hub has completed more than 17,000 hours of CPD this year.



I'm pleased to have supported some of our clinical staff who travelled to Fiji earlier this

year to provide patient care and train local nurses and doctors through a volunteer programme. Their commitment shows the profound impact of stepping beyond our usual roles to assist others, both professionally and personally.

We would like to celebrate the remarkable career of Jon Cadwallader, urologist and former Mobile Medical and Mobile Surgical director who is retiring this month. Many of us have had the privilege of working closely with Jon over the years, and we know him not just as a colleague, but as a friend. Thank you, Jon, for your invaluable wisdom, unwavering dedication, and the compassionate care you've provided to hundreds of patients. We wish you a fulfilling retirement, filled with new adventures and happiness. You can read his story in this newsletter.

We would also like to celebrate Liz Grant, clinical nurse manager, a member of our Mobile Surgical family since 2013. She has treated an astounding 3,500+ patients in this time. Although she is retiring in January, we are delighted that she will continue to work for us in a reduced role. Her dedication and expertise have been invaluable to our team, and we look forward to her ongoing involvement. We warmly welcome Kelly Ewen as the new clinical nurse manager who started with us in November.

As we approach the end of another busy year, we hope you all get the chance to relax and recharge over the holiday season. We wish you all a Meri Kirihimete, and we look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year, refreshed and ready to embrace the new opportunities and challenges that await us.

Ngā mihi,

Mark Eager, Chief Executive
Mobile Health Group



Mobile Health Group

Annual Report 2024

Discover the incredible impact of our fleet of mobile health vehicles in our latest Annual Report. For more than 30 years, we've been delivering essential healthcare services to rural and regional communities across New Zealand. With more than 50,000 patients treated, our commitment to improving health outcomes is stronger than ever. Our Annual Report highlights the milestones, stories and innovations that drive our mission. Join us in celebrating our achievements and learn how we're making a difference in the lives of thousands. Your support and interest are vital as we continue to bring quality healthcare to those who need it most.

[Read the Annual Report 2024](#)



Rural Health Scholarship recipients reflect on their first year

Our four rural health scholarship recipients 2023-2024 have successfully completed their first year of study. Each winner shared positive reflections, emphasising the invaluable knowledge gained and the strong sense of purpose they now feel in serving communities. Their commitment to making a difference has only grown stronger.

Pictured: Alisia Stoian, University of Auckland, Biomedical Science, one of the 2023-2024 scholarship recipients.

[Read more](#)



Mobile Imaging

Dunedin welcomes Mobile Imaging

We're thrilled to announce that Dunedin is now part of our regular circuit! A fantastic early Christmas present for Dunedin and the Southern region. The initiative has been developed in partnership with Health New Zealand, which is providing support services and will fund the scans for eligible patients.

Health NZ Southern general manager for surgical services and radiology Stephen Jenkins says the mobile unit will make a big difference for Southern patients requiring a PET-CT scan. "Most patients in the Southern district who require a PET-CT scan are referred to Christchurch, now we can refer to the Mobile Imaging unit in Dunedin instead."

Richard MacDonald, Mobile Health Group logistics manager says "It has been a tremendously successful first few days of scanning here in Dunedin! The weather has been beautiful with bright, sunny conditions. We've had patients from all over the region - Oamaru, Gore, Roxburgh and Cromwell. Many of them told me they thought they were going to have to travel all the way to Christchurch for their scan, so they were delighted to find they could have it done closer to home."

The service will visit Dunedin prior to Christmas (16th & 17th December), with regular service scheduled to continue in 2025.

Pictured top right: Mobile Imaging unit parked at Dunedin Hospital

Pictured bottom right: Richard MacDonald, logistics manager, Mobile Health Group; Andrew Panckhurst, commercial manager, Mobile Health Group; and Jess Fagan, molecular imaging and theranostics operations manager at Mercy Radiology, standing inside the Mobile Imaging unit.



[Read more](#)

Referring patients to Mobile Imaging

We are excited to announce that our mobile PET-CT service is now accepting referrals in the following locations:

- Rotorua - Southern Cross Rotorua Hospital
- Palmerston North - Crest Hospital (Thursdays)
- Lower Hutt - Crest Hospital (Thursdays)
- Dunedin Hospital

Making a referral

To make a referral, please email booking@mobileimaging.co.nz or call the team on 0800 001 185. More information on referrals can be found [here](#).



Pictured above: Mobile Imaging unit travelling to Dunedin.



Mobile Surgical

Three paths, shared impact

We would like to share the story of three of our clinical staff who volunteered in Fiji to provide health services to local communities. Supported by Mobile Surgical, Keeley, Stacey and Karenza shared their expertise with other health professionals to train and educate, while they themselves gained eye-opening experiences.

[Read more](#)



Pictured: Stacey Lovell with the nursing team in Fiji.

My story: Mikaela Bohnenn, nursing student

It is not new to anyone working in healthcare that the shortage of healthcare workers is an ongoing crisis. By educating health students with hands-on theatre experience as part of their studies, it is our collective hope that we can make long term impacts in Aotearoa New Zealand. This investment is just one of the many areas Mobile Health Group addresses to actively contribute to the overall improvement of healthcare delivery.

We are inspired by nursing student Mikaela Bohnenn who worked on our surgical unit and proudly states “I know that rural nursing is where I am meant to be.”

[Read more](#)



Pictured: Mikaela posing with her new Mobile Health Group cap onboard the Mobile Surgical Unit – Te Waka Hauora



Mobile Medical

Celebrating Jon Cadwallader

We would like to acknowledge the retirement of Dr Jon Cadwallader, a visionary urologist whose dedication to mobile health delivery has left an indelible mark on our community. He consistently championed innovative ideas and his forward-thinking approach and relentless pursuit of new horizons have significantly advanced our healthcare services. As we bid him farewell, we celebrate his remarkable contributions and commitment to improving patient care. Thank you, Jon, for your exceptional service.

[Read the full story](#)



USANZ 2024

At the end of October, we had an incredible couple of days at the USANZ (The Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand) conference in Wellington. It delivers the latest topics in urologic medicine – providing knowledge and tools to urologists as they continue to improve patient care.

Keynote speakers included: Prof Philip Cornford, Jonah Rusere, Prof Mark Frydenberg and international rowing legend Hamish Bond, who shared their insights. Some of the session topics included: Comparative challenges in urology between Australia, New Zealand and United Kingdom; New techniques in bariatric surgery; and Combining MRI and PSMA in diagnosis and management of prostate cancer, are they complementary?

The event was also a highly visible way to promote our latest mobile PET-CT service, Mobile Imaging, which received much attention, especially with PSMA scans for patients with prostate cancer.

The Mobile Medical team brought along their operation game, which many attendees enjoyed. One skilled participant, Polly Hitchcock (pictured bottom right), a urology nurse from Timaru, removed Big Stu's 'funatomy' parts in record time, winning herself a gift voucher. Congratulations, Polly!





My Health Hub

Education Mātauranga programme achieving excellence

Our education programme continues to thrive. Registration numbers have surged, and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. So far this year we have provided over 17,000 hours of CPD with our My Health Hub webinars and CPD study sessions for our rural sites. The thirst and enthusiasm of both our participants and presenters is encouraging and reflects the programme's value of offering comprehensive and impactful learning experiences.

Thank you to all our learners ākonga for being part of this journey, and your continued support. Thank you also to our partner organisations who have chosen us to run webinars for their members, such as Hospice NZ and College of Emergency Nurses. Your collaboration has enabled us to



reach health professionals across diverse geographical areas across the motu, fostering a rich exchange of knowledge and expertise. Together, we are making a significant impact on the professional development of rural health workers, ensuring they are well-equipped to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

RESCyou course in Gisborne

My Health Hub were pleased to support 17 clinical staff at Ngāti Porou Oranga by providing an in-person RESCyou (Rural Emergency Skills to You) course at Puhi Kai iti, Tairāwhiti in October. Topics were chosen by their medical director, Dr Kiriana Bird, and included: Basic and advanced airway management, difficult IV access so IO access, ECG and cardioversion, agitation, the sick child/baby scenario, and more. Members of FACEM developed materials and tutored the course. “Our staff felt the day was highly successful in their upskill of emergency scenarios and gave confidence in their ability to manage these, especially in a rural situation. We aim to build on this moving forward,” Dr Kiriana Bird said.

Pictured: Ngāti porou rural doctors and nurses practising their paediatric emergency skills

[Learn more about My Health Hub](#)



Upcoming webinars on My Health Hub

MANAGING DIABETES IN PALLIATIVE & END-OF-LIFE CARE

Tuesday 11 February, 7.30am - 8.30am

REGISTER NOW

THE SHAKERS & MOVERS OF PARKINSON'S DISEASE

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THIS NEUROLOGICAL CONDITION

TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY, 1PM - 2PM

REGISTER NOW

Recent webinars available to view on My Health Hub

URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS



JANET THACKRAY

MD, MRCP, FRCGP, FRCR, FRCR
Director of Genitourinary Medicine, University of Edinburgh



NAVIGATING THE COMPLEXITIES OF ME/CFS AND LONG COVID

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR ASSESSMENT, DIAGNOSIS & ONGOING SUPPORT



DR CATHY STEPHENSON

Professor of Clinical Medicine



FIONA CHARLTON

Professor of Clinical Medicine
Immunology, University of Edinburgh



NOURISHING MINDS: HOW NUTRITION CAN SUPPORT DEMENTIA CARE



DR LEIGH O'BRIEN

Professor of Clinical Medicine



ASSESSING & MANAGING MILD TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY - CONCUSSION



PROFESSOR ALICE THEADOM

MD, MRCP, FRCGP, FRCR, FRCR
Professor of Clinical Medicine, University of Edinburgh



Our values and mission

As we grow, we have taken the time to capture our vision, mission and values for the company. These serve as the guiding principles that drive everything we do so that we continue to create value and make a difference. Our shared identity reflects our commitment to bringing only the best healthcare services to New Zealanders.

Our company's vision is unchanging – we strive for a future where no matter where you live, healthcare services are accessible to everyone. It's the future we need to build to sustain a healthcare system that doesn't leave anyone behind.





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