

TAURANGA HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY SERVICE

Report to Diocesan Synod, Gisborne, September 2015

It is my pleasure to present my second report to Synod on the Tauranga Hospital Chaplaincy Service, as I enter my third year as Ecumenical Chaplain. We have gone through quite significant changes in the last 12 months, but as a result of working through them as a team I am pleased to say that Tauranga Hospital Chaplaincy is in good shape and well positioned for the future.

The Reverend Jacqui Cavit resigned from her ecumenical chaplaincy position at Tauranga almost a year ago, and we wish to acknowledge the very effective ministry she provided to patients, staff and families in her time here.

During the gap of some months before a new appointment was made we have been able to count on the support of our locum chaplains, Reverend Julie Guest, Pastor Paulo Leaso, Pastor Dave Sales, Reverend Robert Anderson, Reverend Wendy Showan and John Macdonald. We are indebted to them for their readiness to help and their full contribution to the chaplaincy team and the hospital.

Shelley Gilmore was appointed to the vacancy created by Jacqui's resignation and took up her post in late January. Shelley is a Presbyterian Elder and has a degree in counselling. In addition to 'learning the ropes' in the hospital context, Shelley embarked on Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) training soon after starting. She is not one to step back from a challenge, and she has established herself quickly and very effectively.

I have just completed my second unit of clinical pastoral education and am continuing with the accreditation process. We have had a good core team of Voluntary Chaplaincy Assistants (VCAs), who play a vital role within our ministry to the whole hospital community. We have a monthly team training meeting which is well attended.

Shelley took on the mantle of organising the Midlands Regional Chaplaincy Conference taking place earlier this month, and it was an excellent event, with a good turnout and a lively and relevant programme. It took considerable work and we are very grateful for her very successful efforts.

We continue to enjoy the support of the Tauranga Interchurch Hospital Chaplaincy Committee (IHC), made up of representatives of the contributing churches, and the District Health Board. The Local Support Provider Committee maintains oversight and offers a support role in addition to the national management function of the IHC. John Binns continues in the chair, and the Committee's support for chaplaincy has been, as always, considerable.

We enjoy good relations with the Tauranga churches, many of which send us volunteer teams to help us get patients to and from the chapel services. The Roman Catholic Diocese is going to support us with a 0.2 full time equivalent chaplain starting in September.

We are always happy to receive referrals to visit patients in hospital, meet with any Church visitors/ministers when visiting in the hospital, and to accept speaking/preaching engagements to spread the word about Hospital Chaplaincy.

We can be contacted through the hospital (07) 579 8000 or direct dial (07) 579 8295/8735.

Reverend Sam Held,
Ecumenical Chaplain, Tauranga Hospital