

## **Rotorua Hospital Chaplaincy Report**

The Chaplaincy Team at Rotorua Hospital have made 16,264 visits in the last 12 months, including contacts with patients, family and staff.

We continue to hold a service in the Chapel every Sunday, which has been greatly supported by the local churches, who assist with collecting patients, sitting with them, and taking them back to their rooms after the service. We also provide bed side communions and sacramental services as required.

Ray Bloomfield, Chaplain for 26 years at Rotorua, retired in November 2018, and I started here as Lead Chaplain for Lakes DHB in January 2019.

The Chaplaincy Team is very stable and we have a number of volunteers who have been with us for some considerable time. Currently, we have 14 Volunteers, one part time Catholic Chaplain, and a young woman who was trained by Ray who is doing Chaplaincy at one of the local schools. All Volunteers are rostered on the wards over the week, so that all wards are visited, thereby all patients supported.

There is a wonderful spirit of community amongst the team, which is evident when we meet once a month for lunch and on going professional development. We continue to encourage our team to attend an annual retreat, two nights away for professional development, physical and spiritual refreshment, and an opportunity to network with one another.

We have had a local school, John Paul College, send their students to the Chapel as part of their annual pilgrimage – this was for a period of 3 days, totaling approximately 180 students.

Last Christmas, the Chaplaincy Department, together with Hospital staff, enjoyed an evening of caroling with patients, and handing out of teddy bears.

With the changes occurring with the ICHC, we sadly did not receive any of our funding from Waiapu as this was paid direct to the ICHC, and not forwarded to us. We are hopeful that this will be rectified in the very near future.

**Wendy Emsley**  
**Chaplain**