



**Waitemata**  
District Health Board

Best Care for Everyone

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17 January 2014

Lynda Willilams  
Co-ordinator  
Maternity Services Consumer Council  
P O Box 283  
Newmarket  
AUCKLAND

Dear Ms Williams,

**New Birthing facility for West Auckland**

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns regarding the current birthing facilities available in West Auckland.

As you have noted the current maternity facility at Waitakere Hospital is not purpose built for maternity services and therefore has had to be modified over time. In recent years the District Health Board (DHB) has undertaken a range of improvements in the unit to ensure the comfort of the women birthing at the unit.

You have mentioned replacement of floor coverings and repainting which has occurred to refresh the areas. In addition we have installed air conditioning units to provide appropriate temperature control in summer months. This has now been operational for more than a year and has addressed the intense heat in the units over the summer months. The majority of rooms are single rooms which have private toilet facilities and the shared rooms have access to a number of toilets and bathrooms close by.

New furniture has also been provided in family and patient waiting areas and in the patient lounge as well as outside furniture and a newly upgraded garden area. In addition I have recently approved planning to separate the assessment area to ensure improved privacy and access for family for these patients. This will be undertaken in early 2014. You are most welcome to revisit the unit to see the changes that have been made.

Waitemata DHB is now about to initiate a project to determine future maternity facility and staffing requirements to meet the needs of our community. The project focus is to develop and model future services and facilities for maternity taking into consideration the joined workforce with gynaecology. This work will involve extensive consultation with stakeholders in the community, consumers, lobby groups and Waitemata DHB staff. We look forward to the Maternity Services Consumer Council being actively involved with this work. Our expected completion date is November 2014.

The clinical project lead clinicians are Dr Peter van de Weijer Clinical Director of Gynaecology and Ms Emma Farmer, Head of Division Midwifery who are both committed to high quality facilities and services for the population. The project leadership team are committed to co-design principles and are aware of the importance of local services.

Waitemata DHB remains committed to ensuring that maternity services provided to the West Auckland community are of a high standard and I believe that the planning for this needs to be thorough and inclusive. You can expect to be contacted in early 2014 as the maternity planning project begins and we look forward to undertaking this with your participation.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Dale Bramley  
Chief Executive Officer  
WAITEMATA DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

c.c. Dr Lester Levy, Chairman, WDHB  
Linda Harun, GM Child Women and Family Services, WDHB  
Peta Molloy, EA Chair and Board Governance, WDHB