

Supporting the new role

We'd like to ask for your support as a professional colleague, as these nurses will be creating the new role at the same time as they are learning it. They have had an induction programme and will have an ongoing programme to bring them fully into this new role.

As often as possible, development activities scheduled for the new nurses will be open to others to participate.

A Project Team directly supports the Neighbourhood Nurse innovation

Hecta Williams	Project Sponsor GM Primary Health Services	
Jane O'Malley	Director of Nursing and Midwifery	03 768 0499 ext 2887
Maureen Frankpitt	Nurse Manager, Community and Primary Health Care Services	03 768 0499 ext 2877
Chris Hendry	Project Manager	021 655 355
Shelley Jones	Nurse Consultant	021 79 1000

A Steering Group oversees the innovation

We were delighted to have the participation of local community representatives and health service providers in a roundtable interview for the appointment of the new nurses, and there is ongoing local involvement through the Steering Group. This group meets regularly to monitor progress and ensure that the project is on track. Its membership and communication links include perspectives from community, PHO, Maori health, planning and funding, professional practice, community-based nursing and the Neighbourhood Nurses themselves.

We seek advice and direction from nursing leaders in the field

A small group of local and national leaders, expert in primary health care and rural nursing are consulted for advice and critique at major points in the project.

Web page

More information on the project is available on our webpage
www.westcoastdhb.org.nz/projects/neighbourhoodnurse



West Coast District Health Board
Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Primary Health Care Nursing Innovation The Neighbourhood Nurse Model

We'd like you to know about a new primary health care nursing role being trialled through to December 2006 in our Ministry of Health funded nursing innovation.

Essentially, the new role is designed to offer people and families a more in-depth and continuous relationship with a nurse who supports them in defining and achieving their own health objectives. For some, the nurse may act as a case manager over an extended period, for others, the contact may be briefer.

The new primary health care nurses call themselves 'Neighbourhood Nurses' - a title which we hope conveys approachability, accessibility and a concern for the lives of people and families/whanau.

The nurses who have taken up this opportunity to try a different way of working are:

Mary Marr based in Hokitika

Chris Beadle based at Dobson

Karen Davidson based in Reefton, with a special focus on the health needs of the Maori community

They are part of the primary health care nursing team based in each community, and their contact details are inside.

You may find it useful to refer to them people who need support to

- learn about a healthy lifestyle
- learn how to manage a newly diagnosed condition
- learn about harm-minimisation (for those at risk)
- make positive adaptations as they live with a chronic illness
- better self-manage their own and/or family's health
- prevent a worsening of their condition which might lead to an otherwise unnecessary hospital admission
- get the best from multiple service involvement.

In general, the people with whom you'd spend more time, if you could.

The thinking behind the new role

Nurses working in primary health care have always looked at the whole person, or the whole family. But the way their work is funded means that they are sometimes not able to do 'what needs to be done', because it's not in the contract for services. In an extreme case, a number of nurses could be interacting with a family - and you have to wonder if there isn't a better way...

When the Ministry made funding available for primary health care nursing innovations, we saw it as an opportunity to try a new role that could build on the high standard of care already offered by traditional roles, but designed to provide more continuity and integrated care. Our proposal suggested that a primary health care nurse, equipped to work in the community across age ranges, could work across the continuum from health promotion and education to disease management to palliative care.

We believed that within the West Coast District Health Board we already have a proven model of this way of working, as the Rural Nurse Specialists provide a complete nursing service for a given rural community. The Neighbourhood Nurse project brings this idea into other areas.

From Kevin Hague, CEO, WCDHB

Professional roles have become increasingly specialised as health services have developed, but people's needs often don't fall neatly inside the boundaries that have evolved. The challenge for health service providers, particularly in rural areas, is to find ways to meet people's needs by working across these artificial boundaries.

This is precisely what the Neighbourhood Nurse project is all about: meeting people in their own places and on their own terms, and making sure that we do the work to respond appropriately to our patient's needs, rather than them having to work to access appropriate care.

My own view is that this project is the exciting beginning for a way of working that will become the accepted standard, and to the nurses who have chosen to become part of the project I want to express my thanks and my best wishes for the challenges ahead.

Contact details for the Neighbourhood Nurses

DOBSON



Chris Beadle

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Cellphone 027 244 1503
Dobson office dd 03 762 5701
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If unavailable, and your referral is urgent, please contact the Dobson Health Clinic

REEFTON



Karen Davidson

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If unavailable, and your referral is urgent, please contact the Reefton Medical Centre

HOKITIKA



Mary Marr

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