

AccessAction

February 2016



Mobility Garden

The Taranaki Health Foundation Mobility Garden project began in late March 2015 and was officially opened mid-December 2015. It features a unique design by Murali Bhaskar of Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar Brebner Team Architects. Murali's vision and creativity has taken advantage of the delegated area outside the new main entrance to achieve greater use of the space by enhancing the shade, planting and surfaces.

The key feature is a striking wooden sculpture in the form of a tree. The primary focus of the Mobility Garden is for on-

site rehabilitation. The space will enable patients to build confidence in real-life situations undertaking physio and occupational therapies using different surfaces and stairs in an outdoor setting.

To celebrate the Taranaki Blind Foundation's 125th anniversary, the group worked in partnership to enhance the planting, by developing a 'scented' garden to enrich the sensory experience for those who are hearing and sight impaired. Planting is sensitive to the environment but adds another dimension for visitors.

After initial consultation, the Garden's design is already gaining local accolades. Local resident and Disability Action Group member, Lance Girling-Butcher says, "It will make a dramatic enhancement to the entrance of Taranaki Base Hospital, help those in need of mobility instruction, be a magic, restful sanctuary for the visually handicapped to visit and add to the lengthening list of interesting architectural features in the city. Another visionary feature for our home city."

The Garden is now open to the public and provides a warm and welcoming environment for all patients, their families and visitors.

Patient Safety Week

The Health Quality and Safety Commission's (HQSC) National Patient Safety Week (PSW) was held from 1 - 7 November 2015, with a focus on communication and consumer engagement.

To celebrate, the week was filled with activities and education for patients, visitors and staff at both Taranaki Base and Hawera Hospitals. Patient Safety education resources were also delivered to the Aged Residential Care sector, aligning with Advanced Care Planning in our region.

Patients and visitors to our hospitals were asked to write what mattered to them in healthcare on coloured speech bubbles which were displayed in the front entrances. Nearly 520 members of the public



Desiree Paulsen, Mary Bird, Jacqui Herrett and Mike Broker in front of the "What Matters to you in Healthcare" speech bubbles.

filled out the "What Matters to you in Healthcare" speech bubbles, with communication a common theme in their responses. For example, one visitor wrote *"What matters to me in healthcare is being listened to and well-informed, having complete transparency and open communication."*

Mary Bird, Clinical Board Lead for consumer engagement said "We've always known that communicating well with patients is important, but we haven't realised just how important it actually is. Research clearly

"What matters to me in healthcare is being listened to and well-informed, having complete transparency and open communication."

shows that communication is not just a "nice to have" it's a crucial component of healthcare. That's why this week was important and why we continue to shine the light on patient-centred care."

Taranaki DHB Health Together: Hauora Huihui Interim Council

Following the 2014 launch of the Taranaki DHB Patient and Family/Whanau-Centred Care Framework the DHB has established an Interim Council. Its purpose is to guide the implementation of a more patient-centred approach across the organisation. The Council consists of consumer representatives, key staff and senior managers. Danny Ball, consumer representative on the Clinical Board and credentialing committee, chairs the Council.

Mary Bird, Clinical Board lead for patient-centred care says "Having the interim council has helped the DHB to understand the value of having consumers working at all levels and we have been able to increase the number of consumer engagement activities because of it's guidance and support".

Taranaki DHB is currently working with the Council to determine the best consumer engagement structure for the future.