

Blessing event for new Kenepuru Hospital PCCT Scanner

Due to MO:	8 October 2025	Reference	HNZ00098741
To:	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health		
From:	Chris Lowry, Executive Regional Director - Central Region		
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Proactive Release:	This title is proposed by Health NZ for proactive release		

Contact for phone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Jamie Duncan	Group Director Operations, Capital Coast & Hutt Valley		x

Attachments

- Appendix 1:** Runsheet and location map
- Appendix 2:** Services at Kenepuru Hospital campus
- Appendix 3:** Speech notes
- Appendix 4:** Q&A on Kenepuru and wider PCCT rollout

Appendix 3 & 4 have been withheld in full.

About the event

Purpose	You are attending the opening and blessing of Kenepuru Hospital's new Photon Counting CT scanner, at which you will give a short speech.
Date	Monday 13 October 2025
Time	8.30am – 9.00am
Venue	16 Hospital Drive, Kenepuru, Porirua <i>See hospital campus map in Appendix 1</i>
Expected attendees	Helmut Modlik – Chief Executive, Ngāti Toa Callum Katene – Chair, Ngāti Toa Jennie Smeaton – Chief Operating Officer, Ngāti Toa Wellington Hospital Foundation – representative TBC <i>Other Ngāti Toa representative will be in attendance, as will community stakeholders and project contractors</i>
Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora representatives	Chris Lowry – Executive Regional Director, Central Region Jamie Duncan – Group Director Operations, Capital Coast and Hutt Valley Andre Cromhout – Chief Medical Officer, Capital Coast and Hutt Valley <i>Other senior District and Kenepuru Hospital staff will also be in attendance</i> Main contact: Ann Boland, Project Manager, Hospital Specialist Services, Capital & Coast District - [REDACTED]
Media	TBC by Minister's Office. (No media has been arranged/invited by the event organisers)
Talking points	Speech notes are provided in Appendix 3 . O&A are provided in Appendix 4 .

Kenepuru's new scanning facility

1. The Photon Counting Computed Tomography (PCCT) scanner at Kenepuru Hospital is the second of its kind in New Zealand, with one recently installed in Christchurch and another due to be installed at Wellington Regional Hospital in mid-2026.
2. PCCT technology is an advance in medical imaging that directly measures individual X-ray photons rather than averaging them as in conventional scanning. This allows for substantially greater image clarity and contrast, sharper detail, and richer information. By capturing and analysing each photon, the technology delivers more precise data on body tissue and structure. Your office will receive an Aide Memoire [HNZ00099565] which will provide more detailed information on the project and scanning technology involved.
3. Site work began in January 2025 and was staged to enable hospital operations to continue. Installation of the PCCT scanner has included reconfiguration of adjoining rooms to make better use of space and create a modern environment for patients and staff.
4. The enhanced scanning capacity will help reduce CT waitlists for Capital, Coast and Hutt

Valley, and provides better access to diagnostic care for people in Porirua and surrounding areas. Additionally, Kenepuru Hospital inpatients no longer need to be transported to Wellington for scans.

5. Kenepuru previously had no CT scanners. The new machine will increase the region's outpatient scanning capacity by upwards of 5,000 scans per year¹ and thus reduce pressure on the tertiary hospital scanners, and enable improved inpatient and emergency department patient flow. It will also enable: the development of acute chest pain services², reducing length of stay for cardiac patients and invasive diagnostic angiography; and the addition of CT guided spinal services to support wider spinal services, in turn reducing pressure on Wellington's spinal services.

6.

Kenepuru Hospital and Porirua community

7. Kenepuru Hospital is a medium-sized hospital comprising outpatient and surgical services and co-located with the *24/7 Kenepuru Accident and Medical Clinic*. **Appendix 2** provides more information on the services provided at the Kenepuru campus.
8. Kenepuru services the immediate Porirua population, as well as Wellington city through to the Kāpiti Coast. The hospital also delivers some regional and national services, including inpatient admissions to support acute flow across the region. It does not have an emergency department.
9. Around \$120 million is invested in services on the site each year (excluding mental health, addiction and intellectual disability services). Additionally, Health New Zealand funds around \$45 million of primary and community services in Porirua.
10. The Porirua population is diverse with relatively complex health needs:
 - Porirua has the country's highest proportion of youth, with 37% of the community aged under 25.
 - Māori make up 21% of Porirua's population and Pacific people 22%, the second-highest proportion in the country behind South Auckland.
 - Deprivation disparities are quite pronounced: a little under half of the Porirua population live in areas of least deprivation (quintile 1) and around half in high deprivation (quintiles 4 and 5), with comparatively little between. Māori and Pacific people are much more likely to be living in areas of high deprivation.

¹ For comparison, across Capital Coast and Hutt Valley (three CT scanners) 9,400 outpatient scans were undertaken in the 12 months to May 2025, on top of which a further 2,900 outpatient scans were outsourced to private providers. Inpatient/ED scans totalled 27,500 over the same period.

² Once the Wellington Hospital PCCT machine is operational, its high-definition imaging capability will allow some patients presenting to ED with chest pains to receive a PCCT scan rather than the cardiac angiography currently undertaken. A PCCT scan is a significantly faster and less invasive option.

Appendix 1: Runsheet and location map

Main contact: Ann Boland (Project Manager) – 0276223174

Time	Details	Minister's Office notes
8.30am	Minister and Ngāti Toa arrive and proceed to new scanning facility	
8.35 – 8.50am	Ngati Toa representative leads blessing of new unit preparation rooms	
8.50am	Minister speaks (max 5 mins)	
9.00am	Minister departs	
9.00am – 10.00am	<i>Event continues with Unveiling of mahi toa (artwork) and Karakia whakamutunga (hymn/prayer), Health NZ & other speakers, and morning tea.</i>	



Minister and party to be dropped off and greeted at hospital main entrance; driver then parks vehicle as noted on the map.

Green line: drop off to parking

Red line: parking location

Blue line: pick up route..

Appendix 2: Services at Kenepuru Hospital campus

Outpatient services

Kenepuru Hospital provides 31 surgical and medical services and has 33 consult and treatment rooms. Around 35,000 outpatients are seen each year, with plans underway to improve rostering and room availability for increased patient volumes from mid-2025.

Services range from rheumatology, endocrine, medical, diabetes, spinal (in partnership with Burwood Hospital in Christchurch), obstetrics and ophthalmology. Cervical testing is an example of a service provided on weekends to improve access for local women.

The hospital's eye clinic sees around 16,000 patients annually. The clinic is working to add intravitreal injection (used to treat a variety of retinal conditions) and cross linking (a process of corneal strengthening in order to halt or slow loss of vision) to its services, which will reduce pressure on the eye department at Wellington Regional Hospital.

Surgical services

Around 4,000 operations are undertaken at Kenepuru Hospital each year. The hospital's three operating theatres are used for the following: gynaecology, paediatric surgery, ophthalmology cases requiring general anaesthetic, urology, orthopaedics, general surgery, and ear nose and throat. There is also an advanced procedure room, mostly used for dental, gastroscopy and ophthalmology procedures requiring local anaesthetic.

The hospital is achieving ongoing improvements in theatre utilisation, with surgeons from Hutt Hospital backfilling sessions to undertake general surgical procedures. From mid-2025, wait-listed orthopaedic patients across Capital Coast and Hutt Valley districts, and Wairarapa district, have been treated at Kenepuru in order to bring down waiting times across the Central Region.