

Visit to Community Renal Dialysis Unit and Wairau Hospital, 5 November 2025

Due to MO:	29 October 2025	Reference	HNZ00098729
To:	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health		
From:	Jo Gibbs, Group Director Operations, Nelson Marlborough, Health NZ Jane Kinsey, Group Manager Integration, Planning Funding, and Outcomes		
Copy to:	n/a		
Security level:	In Confidence	Priority	Routine
Consulted:	n/a		
Proactive Release:	This title is not proposed by Health NZ for proactive release		

Contact for phone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Jo Gibbs	Group Director of Operations Nelson Marlborough		x
Jane Kinsey	Group Manager Integration, Planning Funding, and Outcomes		

Attachments

Appendix 1: Run sheet and map

Appendix 2: Talking Points Dialysis

Appendix 3: Attendees Dialysis Opening

Appendix 4: Talking Points Wairau Hospital

Appendix 5: Attendees Wairau Hospital

Appendix 4 has been withheld in full.

About the event

Purpose	<p>Official opening of the Wairau Community Haemodialysis Satellite Unit in Blenheim, improving access to life-sustaining dialysis services for Marlborough residents. (9am – 10am)</p> <p>An in-person visit and tour of the Wairau Hospital and an opportunity to meet the local team (10am 10:30am)</p>
Date	Wednesday 5 November 2025
Time	9am – 10:30am
Venue	Wairau Hospital – please refer to the map in Appendix 1
Expected attendees	<p>Invited guests and biographies are attached as Appendix 3</p> <p>Patients, local MPs, philanthropic organisations, Marlborough PHO and HNZ teams.</p>
Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora representatives	<p>Jo Gibbs, Group Director Operations, Nelson Marlborough, Health NZ</p> <p>Steve Low, Chief Medical Officer, Nelson Marlborough, Health NZ</p> <p>Stephanie Watson, ADON/Ops Manager Wairau Hospital, Health NZ</p> <p>Pete Watson, Executive Regional Director, Te Waipounamu</p> <p>Andrew Connolly, Health NZ Board Deputy Chair</p> <p>Heads of Departments Wairau Hospital</p> <p>Helen Cosgrove, Senior Medical Officer, Wairau ED</p> <p>Simon Langford, CNM ED/HDU, Wairau Hospital</p> <p>Kate Hodson, CNM IPU, Wairau Hospital</p> <p>Rory Wilson, SM for General Medicine, Wairau Hospital</p>
Media	Media will be present, and a press release and photo opportunity are planned.
Talking points	

Dialysis Unit

Background

1. This event briefing provides you with information to support your attendance at the opening of the Community Dialysis Unit in Blenheim.
2. The initiative aligns with Te Pae Tata priorities, addressing longstanding equity concerns for Māori and Pasifika populations in Marlborough, and is an example of bringing services closer to home.
3. The detail of the service was developed with a co-design process involving whānau who travel from Wairau to access dialysis in Nelson currently.
4. This unit offers a more accessible treatment for Wairau communities, with space for whānau support. Delivery by primary care teams is more appropriate and more cost-effective than hospital-based alternatives. This is a service which is delivered by primary care working at top of scope, while being supported by hospital and specialist services.
5. Marlborough Primary Health Organisation (PHO) has committed to funding operational costs for the first two years. The unit will be staffed by clinicians employed by Marlborough PHO who will work with Hospital doctors, and they will be supported remotely by Nelson Dialysis Unit.
6. This model is scalable and replicable and supports integrated care, with potential to expand services such as chemotherapy infusions in the same facility.

Marlborough Primary Health

7. The Marlborough PHO has led the development of this initiative in collaboration with the Planning, Funding and Outcomes (PFO) team in Health New Zealand (Health NZ).
8. Marlborough PHO — also known as Kimi Hauora Wairau — is a community-focused health organisation based in Blenheim. It coordinates and funds a range of primary healthcare services across the Marlborough region, including Blenheim, Picton, Havelock, and Renwick.
9. The Marlborough PHO Board approved contribution of funding to staff the operations for

the first two years of delivery. They also partnered with philanthropic organisations, HNZ and the council to upgrade the building so it was fit for purpose.

10. They have worked collaboratively with Health NZ clinical, facility, commissioning, and medical biotechnical teams to develop a sustainable model.

Dialysis Unit Initiative

11. This is an exciting initiative which will bring large benefit to people and whānau who live in Wairau. In the words of one patient: "Travel is the gripe – Travel will get me, not the treatment. I'm not asking for anything grand, just closer."
12. Previously, patients had to travel to Nelson three times per week for dialysis—a two-hour journey each way. This new four-chair unit in Blenheim will operate three days per week initially, with capacity to expand. It is designed for clinically stable patients and integrates wraparound services such as podiatry and social work.
13. The initiative is a collaboration between Health NZ (the Hospital and Specialist Services and Commissioning groups), Marlborough PHO, and Te Piki Oranga. The Nelson Dialysis Unit team are key also for supporting this initiative in Blenheim.
14. Some of the key areas that are of interest to the minister that are addressed by this initiative include:
 - a) Equity of access for Māori and Pasifika populations.
 - b) Community-led innovation and responsiveness.
 - c) Sustainability and scalability of rural health models.
15. Some of the potential risks and challenges that are being managed in this model are:
 - a) Workforce recruitment and retention – it is pleasing that there has been a good response to the recruitment advertising, with a number of high-quality candidates responding, and some appointments have been made.
 - b) Managing expectations around service expansion – this will be managed by close working between Health NZ and the PHO. An MOU has been developed to outline roles and responsibilities in this arrangement.
 - c) Ensuring cultural safety and responsiveness. Partnering with Iwi Māori Partnership Board and Hauora Māori provider (Te Piki Oranga) will manage this

Wairau Hospital

Background

16. This section provides you with information to support your visit and tour of Wairau Hospital.
17. The tour of the hospital will be the second part of the day's events and will take place after the opening of the community dialysis unit.
18. The tour will include visiting urgent care and ED followed by a meeting with the GDO, Heads of Department Wairau Hospital, ERD Te Waipounamu and Deputy Chair Health NZ Board.

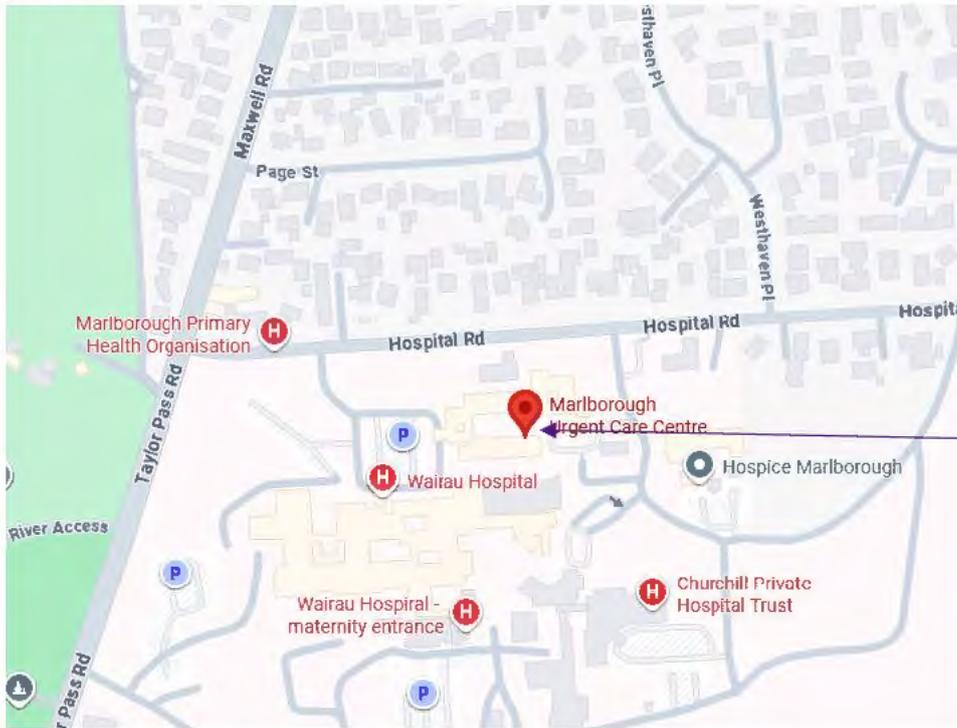
Wairau Hospital

19. Wairau Hospital is based in Blenheim.
20. Health NZ Nelson Marlborough provides healthcare services to a population of approximately 169,700 people across the Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough regions (22,700 square kilometres).
21. Wairau Hospital has a total capacity of 68 Adult/Paediatric/Maternity beds:
 - a) 24/7 Emergency Department (15 beds).
 - b) HDU/AAU 10 bed (4 HDU / 5 AAU).
 - c) IPU Ward (22 surgical beds / 25 Medical AT&R).
 - d) Paediatric/Neonate Ward (8 beds and 3 cots).
 - e) Outpatients Clinics including an Ophthalmology Centre.
 - f) Maternity care (8 beds of which 3 are delivery suites).
 - g) Collocated on Wairau grounds are the Marlborough Urgent Care, Churchill Private Hospital Trust and Hospice.
22. On low demand days, Wairau ED has 55 presentations per day, with 90 presentations on very high demand days.
23. There are approximately 3,000 Health NZ staff working across the Nelson Marlborough district.
24. In 2025, 31 nurse graduates started their careers in the Nelson Marlborough district.

Appendix 1: Runsheet and location map

Time	Details	Minister's Office notes
9:00am	Minister arrives at the Blenheim Dialysis Unit, greeted Beth Tester and Jane Kinsey	Wairau Hospital is located off Hospital Road, Blenheim. Car to remain parked for opening of community dialysis. Photo opportunity.
9:10am	Welcome and opening remarks by Marlborough PHO CE, Beth Tester, and Chair, Mark Peters	
9:15am	Speech by Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health	Speech notes in Appendix 2
9:30am	Tour of the dialysis unit led by clinical staff	Media to follow
9:45am	Whānau and patient kōrero (stories)	Opportunity for informal engagement
Transition to the Wairau Hospital tour		
10am	Minister to make his way to the entrance of the Marlborough Urgent Care Centre - Wairau Hospital. Jo Gibbs (GDO) and Stephanie Watson (ADON/Ops Manager) to meet Minister at the entrance.	(down the corridor)
10:05 - 10:15am	Minister to be led on a tour of Wairau Hospital and Emergency Department In attendance: Jo Gibbs (GDO), Stephanie Watson (ADON/Ops Manager Wairau), Pete Watson (ERD) and Andrew Connolly (Deputy Chair HNZ Board) Wairau clinician to be confirmed as soon as possible.	
10:15 - 10:30am	<i>Closed session: Minister, GDO, HODs Wairau Hospital, ERD Te Waipounamu, Deputy Chair HNZ Board</i>	
10:30am	Minister is farewelled and departs.	

Dialysis Unit



Blenheim Dialysis unit and Wairau Hospital Tour

Wairau Hospital Campus Map

Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand



Appendix 3: Attendee list - Dialysis Unit

	Name	Role and Organisation
1	Chiquita Hansen	Regional Director Planning, Funding and Outcomes (PFO), HNZ
2	Beth Tester	CE Marlborough PHO
3	Dr Jordan Gibbs	CD Marlborough PHO
4	Mark Peters	Board Chair, Marlborough PHO
5	Luke Katu	Board Trustee, Marlborough PHO
6	Lynette Rayner	Board Trustee, Marlborough PHO
7	Sharee Knowles	Board Trustee, Marlborough PHO
8	David Croad	Board Trustee, Marlborough PHO
9	Jacqui Dean	Board Trustee, Marlborough PHO
10	Dr Emily Marfell	Board Trustee, Marlborough PHO
11	Amaroa Katu	Community Health & Operations Manager Marlborough PHO
12	Amber Venning-Slater	Programme Manager for Clinical Services, Marlborough PHO
13	Shivana Ram	Operational Coordinator, Marlborough PHO
14	Chris Sisson	Finance Manager, Marlborough PHO
15	Jacqui Bowden-Tucker	ADON, Marlborough PHO
16	Kelly McFadyen	Kaiawhina, Marlborough PHO
17	Sarah Edwards	Personal Assistant to CE, Marlborough PHO
18	Deo Garingalao	Haemodialysis RN, Marlborough PHO
19	Jane Macfarlane	Haemodialysis RN, Marlborough PHO
20	Dr Lucinda Whitely	Chief Primary and Community, PFO, HNZ
21	Dr Pete Watson	Executive Regional Director, HNZ
22	Jeanine Tamati-Elliffe	Regional Director Hauora Māori Services
23	Rachael Hate	Service Improvement Manager, Hauora Māori Services
24	Jane Kinsey	Group Manager Integration, PFO, HNZ

25	Dr Elizabeth Wood	CD Clinical Governance
26	Andrew Goodger	Regional Manager Living Well, PFO, HNZ
27	Shane Graham	Iwi appointed health liaison lead, CE Ngati Rarua
28	Peter Akuhata	Pou Herenga Māori Health, HNZ
29	Joy Tomlinson	Charge Nurse Dialysis Unit Nelson, HNZ
30	Dr Bruce King	SMO Renal Physician, Nelson, HNZ
31	Dr Reon Van Rensburg	SMO, Physician, Blenheim, HNZ
32	Rosey Wilson	Service Manager Medicine, HNZ
33	Kim Ngawhika	CE Te Kahui Hauora, Iwi Māori Partnership Board
34	Ricky Carr	Manager Te Piki Oranga, Blenheim,
35	Sara Shaughnessy	CE Nelson Bays Primary Health
36	Dr Andre Bonning	Clinical Director, Nelson Bays Primary Health
37	Anne Hobby	General Manager – Te Piki Oranga
38	Hilary Exton	Chief Allied Health, Scientific and Technical, HNZ
39	Jo Gibbs	Group Director Operations Nelson Marlborough (Interim), HNZ
40	Sandy McLean-Cooper	Chief Nurse District and Regional, HNZ
41	Dr Steve Low	Chief Medical Officer, HNZ
42	Stephanie Watson	Associate Director Nursing, Blenheim, HNZ
43	Dr Nick Baker	National Clinical Chief Health Service Delivery Planning, HNZ
44	Robert Gerrie	Finance Manager, HNZ
45	Philip Reardon	Facilities Manager, HNZ
46	Gareth Edmondson	Regional Clinical Engineering Manager, HNZ
47	Felicity Spencer	Community and Whānau Wellbeing Manager, Public Health, HNZ
48	Joe Ferraby	Independent Chair, Marlborough Urgent Care Ltd
49	Dr Ruth Moore	Board Member, Marlborough Urgent Care Ltd
50	Dr Georgina Walton	Board Member, Marlborough Urgent Care Ltd

51	Jo Muir	Marlborough Urgent Care Ltd
52	Mayor Nadine Taylor	Marlborough District Council (MDC)
53	Jodie Griffiths	Community Partnerships Adviser, MDC
54	Greg King	Board Member Marlborough Equipment Trust
55	John Hedley	Board Member Marlborough Equipment Trust
56	Ross Anderson	Board Member Marlborough Equipment Trust
57	John Cuddon	Board Member Marlborough Equipment Trust
58	Roger Rose	Board Member Marlborough Equipment Trust
59	Richard Oliver	Board Member, The Care Foundation
60	Brigid Forrest	Board Member, The Care Foundation
61	Jules Taylor	Board Member, The Care Foundation
62	Sarah-Jane Weir	Board Member, The Care Foundation
63	Jenny Black	Board Member, The Care Foundation
64	Jane Grenfell	Board Member, The Care Foundation
65	Clare Haycock	Board Member, The Care Foundation
66	Andrew Meishan	Churchill Hospital Community Donations
67	David Sandford	Churchill Hospital Community Donations
68	Beth Morgan	Churchill Hospital Community Donations
69	Dr Andrew Connolly	Wairau Hospital
70	Tessa La Varis	Head of Department for Medical, Wairau Hospital
71	Helen Cosgrove	Senior Medical Officer, Wairau ED
72	Mark Taylor	Head of Department for General Surgery, Wairau Hospital
73	Dave Sandford	Head of Department for Anaesthetics, Wairau Hospital
74	David Bond	Head of Department for Paediatrics, Wairau Hospital
75	Simon Langford	CNM ED/HDU, Wairau Hospital
76	Kate Hodson	CNM IPU, Wairau Hospital
77	Rory Wilson	SM for General Medicine, Wairau Hospital

78	Cynthia De Joux	Pou Manaaki Te Waka Hauora Māori Health
79	Tui Lister Pou Korowai	Te Waka Hauora Director of Māori Health
80	Quentin Doig	Chair and Driver, Marlborough Community Vehicle Trust
81	Peter Watt	Deputy Chair and Driver, Marlborough Community Vehicle Trust
82	Wendy Duffy	Deputy Chair and Driver, Marlborough Community Vehicle Trust
83	Barbara Climo	Operations Coordinator and Driver, Marlborough Community Vehicle Trust
84	John Aldridge	Treasurer and Driver, Marlborough Community Vehicle Trust
85	Dr Alexandra Madigan	Medical Officer, Marlborough Urgent Care
86	Jacinta Rangi	Extended Care Paramedic, Marlborough Urgent Care
87	Andrew Brooks	Registered Nurse, Marlborough Urgent Care
88	Alysia Newman-Woods	Registered Nurse, Marlborough Urgent Care
89	Agnes Tyson	Registered Nurse, Marlborough Urgent Care
90	Gloria Varghese	Registered Nurse, Marlborough Urgent Care
91	Cordelia Davies	Health Care Assistant, Marlborough Urgent Care
92	Margret Hall	Reception/Administrator, Marlborough Urgent Care
93	Rochelle Harris	Reception/Administrator, Marlborough Urgent Care
94	Megan Gander	Reception/Administrator, Marlborough Urgent Care
95	Margie Vuto	Reception/Administrator, Marlborough Urgent Care
96		Patient
97		Patient
98		Patient
99		Patient

Appendix 5: Attendee list - Wairau Hospital tour

	Name	Role and Organisation
1	Jo Gibbs	Group Director Operations, Nelson Marlborough, Health NZ
2	Stephanie Watson	ADON/Ops Manager Wairau Hospital, Health NZ
3	Pete Watson	Executive Regional Director, Te Waipounamu, Health NZ
4	Andrew Connolly	Deputy Chair, Health NZ Board
Clinicians invited to meet with Minister (attendance to be confirmed):		
5	Tessa La Varis	Head of Department Medicine, Wairau Hospital
6	David Bond	Head of Department Paediatrics, Wairau Hospital
7	Michel Sangalli	Head of Department O&G, Wairau Hospital
8	Mark Taylor	Head of Department General Surgery, Wairau Hospital
9	Helen Cosgrove	Acting Head of Department ED, Wairau Hospital
10	Rick Wilson	Head of Department Orthopaedic, Wairau Hospital