

Event Briefing

Nelson Hospital ED visit 3 November 2025

Due to MO:	29 October 2025	Reference	HNZ00101645
To:	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health		
From:	Jo Gibbs, Group Director Operations, Nelson Marlborough, and Rob Ojala, Regional Director Infrastructure, Te Waipounamu.		
Copy to:	n/a		
Security level:	In Confidence	Priority	Routine
Consulted	n/a		

Contact for phone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Jo Gibbs	Group Director Operations		x

Attachments

Appendix 1: Runsheet / logistics overview

Appendix 2: Fact sheet

Appendix 3: Talking points

Appendix 4: Press release

Appendix 2, 3 and 4 have been withheld in full.

About the event

Purpose	<p>Minister Brown will be visiting Nelson Hospital to tour the new ED expansion and have an opportunity to meet with those involved in the project.</p> <p>This will be followed by a photo opportunity and a media stand up (TBC).</p>
Date	Monday 3 November 2025
Time	The visit will be approximately 4.00pm - 4.45pm
Venue	Nelson Hospital, Waimea Road, Nelson
Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora attendees	<p>Infrastructure and Investment Group (IIG): Dr Rob Ojala, Regional Director, Infrastructure, Te Waipounamu/South Island Philippa Smith, Facilities Programme Manager Lincoln Blair, Project Manager, TSA Riley Karaitiana Henry, Project Manager, Gibbons Naylor</p> <p>Hospital Specialist Services: Pete Watson – Executive Regional Director Te Waipounamu Jo Gibbs – Group Director Operations, Nelson Marlborough Sandy McLean-Cooper – District Chief Nurse, Nelson Marlborough Harriet Harper – Head of Department ED, Nelson Marlborough Vicki Bijl – Duty Nurse Manager ED, Nelson Marlborough Grant Andrews – Manager Support Services, Nelson Marlborough Shane Graham – Pouwhakahaere/Chief Executive – Ngāti Rārua Karipa Akuhata – Pou Herenga, Nelson Marlborough</p>
Other attendees	Nick Smith- Nelson Mayor (invited by your office).
Media	Minister’s office to invite media to a standup (TBC)
Talking Points	See appendix 3.

Background

1. This event briefing provides you with information to support your visit to the Emergency Department expansion of Nelson Hospital on 3 November.
2. The visit will include a walk-through of the new area of ED and a chance to speak to key staff.
3. The Nelson ED is currently operating with only 23 treatment spaces, which is

inadequate given the steady increase in patient attendances.

4. To address this issue, and meet both current and short-term demands, the expansion will increase the number of treatment spaces to 29. This includes isolation facilities that were identified as lacking during Nelson Hospital's COVID response.
5. It will provide staff with improved working conditions, reinforcing our commitment to delivering high-quality healthcare to the community.
6. The \$10.6 million expansion of the Emergency Department (ED) is being funded from baseline depreciation and will meet the growing demand for emergency services and ensure shorter stays in the ED. The ED expansion precedes planned redevelopment of Nelson Hospital.

Expansion Details:

7. Construction for the ED expansion and refurbishment began in October 2024 and is being managed by the regional infrastructure team. The phase 2 expansion, the bulk of the project, is due to open to the public on 4 November at 7 am, with the final phases to begin shortly, and the overall project anticipated to be complete by April 2026.
8. The Ministers of Health and Finance visited the project in May of this year as part of announcing funding for the boarder redevelopment.
9. The new wing the Minister will open represents the bulk of the project - including four new observation bays, one observation room, two N-class isolation rooms plus one S-class isolation room, a larger medication room, sluice room, a dedicated triage room, two new staff write-up spaces and 2 clinical manager offices, several bathrooms and a utility room.
10. It provides approximately 200 metres squared of additional floor area (see floor plan in Appendix 1). This new wing adds seven new beds. As one existing bed has been repurposed as part of the rebuild, the total number of beds will increase from 23 to 29.
11. An upgraded staffroom has already been delivered in phase 1 of this ED overhaul. Enhanced staff spaces enable confidential conversations and better support for the ED team.
12. Phase 3 reconfigure parts of the existing ED to deliver new mental health interview rooms dedicated to mental health patients and addressing a previous gap in our facilities. These are scheduled to go live in January 2026. Refurbishment work across the remaining whānau and triage areas is planned in the final phase, phase 4, to finish by April 2026.

Current Nelson Hospital

13. Nelson Hospital is based in central Nelson.
14. Health NZ Nelson Marlborough provides healthcare services to a population of around 169,700 people across the Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough regions (22,700 square kilometres). Its population is aging and is expected to grow 9.6% by 2040/41. Nelson Hospital is the largest of two secondary hospitals in the Nelson Marlborough region.

15. Nelson Hospital includes:

- 24/7 Emergency Department
- Combined Intensive Care and Coronary Care Unit (ICCU)
- Special Care Baby Unit
- Medical and Surgical Wards
- Children's Ward
- Assessment, Treatment and Rehabilitation Ward
- Medical Admitting and Planning Unit (MAPU)
- Radiology including MRI, CT, Ultrasound, and Intervention Radiology
- Outpatients Clinics
- Maternity care
- Inpatient Psychiatric Services.

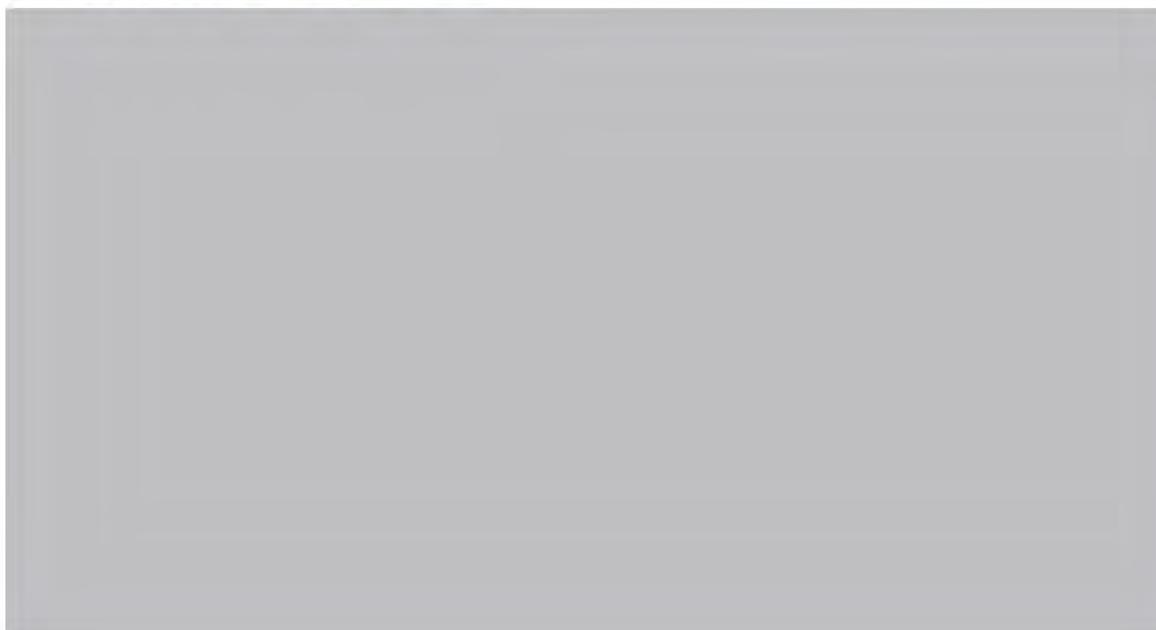
16. On average, there are 90 presentations to the Nelson Emergency Department each day.

17. There are around 3,200 Health NZ staff working across the Nelson Marlborough district.

Overview of health target performance

18. As a district we are doing well in Shorter Stays in ED, Immunisation Coverage and Faster Cancer Treatment, having met the milestones. We have more work to do to ensure people in Nelson Marlborough have faster access to first specialist appointments and planned care treatment.

Data for the week ending 26 October



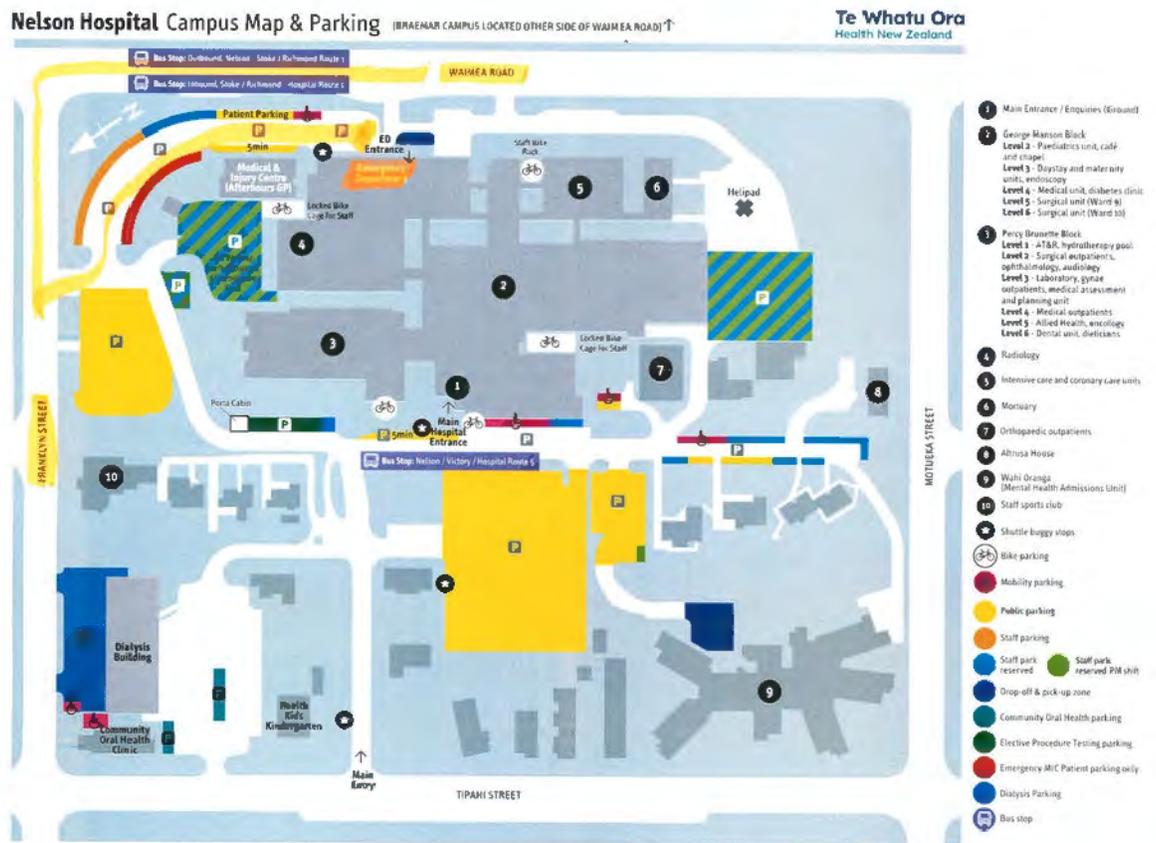
Other investments/initiatives at Nelson Hospital

19. Nelson Hospital Redevelopment (Project Whakatapuranga): Work on the hospital rebuild continues with the Programme Business Case due to the Ministers office in November 2025.
20. The following projects have been managed by the regional infrastructure team as part of developing capability and capacity to deliver regionally led projects.
21. New Ophthalmology Outpatient Centre: The fully refurbished \$4.45 million Ophthalmology Outpatient Centre, opened earlier this year, is enhancing patient care by offering additional clinical space and enabling more clinicians to treat patients more quickly. The increased capacity and improved flow will lead to shorter wait times for first specialist assessments. The expanded facility accommodates additional medical staff and technicians, ensuring a more efficient and effective service for patients.
22. Wāhi Oranga Refurbishment: The recently completed \$6.5 million refurbishment of Wāhi Oranga, directly benefits patients by providing a safer, more welcoming environment. The new design focuses on reducing seclusion rates by offering a better-managed admissions area for high-dependency patients. This updated space has improved the overall patient experience by following trauma-informed care principles, creating a less distressing atmosphere, and enhancing engagement with staff which aims to reduce length of patient stays. A new, secure area for police arrivals further contributes to a safer environment. Additionally, the facility has gained one high-dependency bed (going from four to five), increasing capacity for patients requiring intensive care.
23. New Paediatric Outpatient Unit: Following a \$5 million upgrade, the new Paediatric Outpatient Unit provides a dedicated, child-friendly space designed to support the unique needs of young patients. The unit, now co-located with youth mental health services, offers 10 clinical rooms, a treatment room, and shared spaces that foster a collaborative approach to care. This co-location enables better continuity of care, as clinicians can work together more effectively on cases, benefiting both patients and families. Additionally, the increased space, including an extra clinic room and enhanced procedure facilities, ensures a more comfortable and supportive environment for young patients and will hopefully reduce wait times.

Appendix 1: Runsheet and location map for Nelson Hospital ED visit, 3 November

Time	Details	Minister's Office notes
4:00pm	<p><u>Arrives at ED entrance Nelson Hospital</u></p> <p>Meet outside ED</p> <p>Jo Gibbs (GDO), Harriet Harper (HOD ED), Rob Ojala (Regional Head of Infrastructure) and Pete Watson (ERD) to meet Minister at ED entrance</p> <p><u>Address:</u></p> <p>Nelson Hospital ED, Waimea Road, Nelson</p> <p>Car parking is available outside ED</p> <p>Contact: Jo Gibbs: [REDACTED]</p>	
4:00pm – 4.05pm	<p><u>Walcome</u></p> <p>Shane Graham (Pouwhakahaere/Chief Executive – Ngāti Rārua)</p> <p>Karipa Akuhata (Pou Herenga Nelson Marlborough)</p>	
4:05pm - 4:10pm	<p><u>Walk through of new building</u></p> <p>In attendance: Harriet Harper (HOD ED), Jo Gibbs (GDO), Pete Watson (ERD), Rob Ojala (Regional Head of Infrastructure), Philipa Smith/Lincoln Blair (project team), Sandy McLean-Cooper (District Chief Nurse), Sara Shaughnessy (CEO Nelson Bays Primary Care)</p> <p>Contact: Gaylene Corlett: [REDACTED]</p>	
4:10pm – 4:15pm	<p><u>Ministar speech</u></p>	
4:15pm – 4:30pm	<p><u>Photo Opportunity</u></p>	
4:30pm – 4:45pm	<p><u>Media Stand Up</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ED expansion 	
4:45pm	<p><u>Minister departs</u></p>	

Map showing ED



Enter the campus off Franklyn Street and follow road to the right towards Waimea Road and the front entrance of ED (yellow line on map above). There will be a space allocated to park