

AccessAction

July 2014



Disability Awareness Training

On Wednesday 16th July 2014 the Blue Coat Volunteers will take part in Disability Awareness Training. This will be co-run by Taranaki Disability Information Centre Trust (TDICT) and Taranaki DHB. It will be a fun thought provoking session involving a stimulation exercise to increase awareness of what it is like to live with a disability and how to approach and offer assistance to people with disabilities visiting Base Hospital.

MAY DAY!

Taranaki DHB hosted its third annual 'Disability MAY Affect You Day' on 1 May 2014. This event allows a range of disability and community support providers to come together and raise awareness of the services that they offer to DHB staff and board members. The theme for this year was 'transport'. A range of disability transport service providers gave presentations on what they offer, and handed out information to those who attended. Jacob Mills from Parafed also brought along a hand-cycle and basketball wheelchair for staff to try out.



Base Hospital Redevelopment (Project Maunga) Improving hospital access

The new entrance to Taranaki Base Hospital opened on Friday 27th June, 2014. John Major, Chair of the Disability Action Group and an Access and Barrier Free Accessor was involved in the planning to ensure access met national standards and was user friendly. Six new permanent disability car parking spaces have been provided close to the entrance and a drop off point is available at the end of a covered walkway. The reception desk has a wheelchair level counter and the foyer is large with both open spaces and seating areas where people can wait. A new walkway from the lower car park to the entrance has been finished with a handrail and lighting. Outside the entrance is a lovely rehabilitation garden for all to share.



Visit to Ward 2A

A small group of members from the Disability Action Group paid a visit to Ward 2A in April to find out more about the electronic whiteboard system being used in the new hospital building, and how this improves the care for patients with mobility or other disability issues. Disability needs are identified on the whiteboard, so that any staff member involved with a patient has a good awareness of what kind of assistance the patient needs and how best to help them. This includes identifying mobility issues, hearing impairment and sight impairments for example. The group also learned about the red tray system where meals for patients with special

dietary needs (including a need for assistance with feeding) are sent to the ward on a distinctive red tray. This means that those staff who hand out patient meals will be aware that

the patient has a dietary need. Our thanks to Jackie Sewell for making this trip possible and for making the group feel so welcome!



AMIGO Training gets going

The Amigo training is underway, with many different staff teams across the hospital registering their interest in finding out more about the Amigo Hearing Device and how this can be used to improve communication with patients who have hearing impairment. Ward 3B & 4A, Cardiology, Renal Unit, Oncology and Outpatients are among those who have already participated in the training update session. Sue Young and Hearing Dog (Huffy) continue to steal the show when it comes to the short training update session – Huffy gets lots of hugs from the staff and hopefully helps get the message across about how valuable assistive hearing equipment (and dogs!) can be! If you would like to know more or arrange training for your team, please contact Keryn Roderick on 06 753 7777 extension 8798.



Accessibility workshop

Members of the Disability Action Group went throughout Base Hospital Grounds to identify where public access into the buildings could be improved. Two areas were identified:

- Disability parking space opposite orthotics (used by amputees) has no disability access to the entry door to orthotics. There is also a kerb that prevents wheelchairs accessing the path to the door.
- Lip on kerb near Elderly Services/MHSOP prevents wheelchair access.

Philip Olckers – TDHB Facilities Overseer visited the two sites. Plans are in place to address the second point and investigate options for the first point.