



■ ■ **Current team**

Psychiatry

Dr Gail Riccitelli
Dr Candy Fox

Psychology

Dr John Glass
Jane Powell

Team Leader

Marilla Tyler

Social Work

Sarah de Souza

Occupational Therapy

Sonia Terry
Beth West

Nursing

Maree Wisnewski
Graeme Wetton
Anna-Dora Schwank
Daniel Schwank (Intake Liaison)

Cultural Support

Matua Hemi Pokere
Kylie Richardson

■ ■ **Area covered**

North and South Taranaki including
Waverley.



**Mental Health Services for
Older People (MHSOP)**

**Taranaki Base Hospital,
Westtown, New Plymouth.**

**Tel: 06 753 6139
Fax: 06 753 7796**

Published: Communications Team
Responsibility: MHSOP
Date Published: October 2016
Last Reviewed: October 2016
Version: 1

TDHB 10-2016

Mental Health Service for Older People (MHSOP)



www.tdhb.org.nz

*A specialist team, provided by Taranaki
District Health Board, assisting older
people with mental health issues.*





■ ■ *About us*

The Mental Health Service for Older People (MHSOP) is made up of a team of medical professionals who provide advice, assessment, treatment, care and support, including:

- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy

The team assists people in Taranaki who are over the age of 65 and experience significant mental health problems including complex dementias.

People under the age of 65 who experience 'age related' mental health problems are also supported by MHSOP unless already supported by the Adult Mental Health Service.

Clients are usually seen in their own homes, but can attend an outpatient clinic at Base Hospital, Stratford Health Centre,

Hawera Hospital or the Patea Clinic, if this is more convenient.

■ ■ *Typical reasons for referral*

- Significant cognitive and behavioural changes
- Changes in a person's ability to reason, problem solve and take care of themselves
- Mood changes
- Safety concerns (related to the above factors)

■ ■ *What the team provides*

- Initial assessment of people referred from the community including care homes.
- Initial assessment, when appropriate, of people admitted to hospital for medical reasons (consult liaison).
- Memory testing, specialist advice and monitoring of related medication.
- Psychiatric and Neuro-Psychological assessment.

- Psychological Therapy and counselling support for a range of mental health issues.
- Ongoing monitoring and support when necessary.
- Assistance organising support from other health and disability services.

■ ■ *Referral process*

- Referrals will not be actioned without client consent.
- Referrals are made via a client's GP.
- Once referrals are received, the MHSOP team will consider each referral and determine whether they can provide the appropriate care for that person.
- The MHSOP team does not provide a crisis response for older people unknown to the service.
- If a current client requires an urgent response out of working hours, the Assessment and Brief Care Service should be contacted (via the hospital switchboard on 06 753 6139).