

IN FOCUS



News & views about Our Health from Hawke's Bay DHB
Interim Chief Executive Craig Climo

August 2019

Kia ora, thank you for being welcoming.

It's important to say that when I say "you" this message is to all people involved in the health sector in Hawke's Bay.

It's good to be here and to be back — my first senior management job was here from 1992-96.

It's the start of week three and when I have blocks of time free from meetings, I am driving and walking around trying to meet our people, see things and hear how it's going. I like to wander around and to talk, so please feel free to speak with me. As well as upholding our existing DHB values, this links to how I like management to work — being visible, accessible and responsive.

I will be here until a permanent Chief Executive (CE) commences. It's likely to be at least nine months. It may take longer than normal because of the local body elections in October and it is appropriate for the new Board to appoint the permanent CE.

My impression here thus far is that we have very good hard working people, but a lot of process that causes frustration all round. I'm thinking about how we might streamline things.

I'm conscious I'm in something of a caretaker role but that we need to get on with things.

My personality is more toward the action end. However, don't expect anything precipitative or for things to be turned on their head. Stability and orderly change is the prescription.

I expect that change will be focused on how we do things at a system level with the purpose being to improve access, experience, and outcome for service users. It should also create a better work environment.

Within that we have a number of areas to focus on: service improvements — as recently pointed to particularly by senior doctors including GPs; Elective Service Performance Indicators — because it's the right thing for the public to have a transparent and predictable system, and also because it becomes a distraction from other things; financials — so we can invest more in services and facilities, and to be in control of our destiny to do so; and all through a pro-equity lens.

It is unacceptable that NZ has a wide and stubborn socio-economic gap, including in health status. I am entirely open to doing what it takes to eliminate health inequity.

That's quite a lot to say, so we better get on with it.

I'm looking forward to meeting with you.

Ngā mihi,
Craig



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Climo'.

Craig Climo
Interim Chief Executive
Hawke's Bay District Health Board