The Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy
Te Kaunihera Whakawhanaunga o nga Minita Hohipera, Hauora

Report to the General Synod/te Hinota Whanui 2018

It is with great pleasure that I write this report for the Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy to the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

The Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy has experienced three lean years of mounting deficits. The losses ballooned in the 2016-2017 financial year to $500,000.00. While these were covered by reserves, the situation could not be sustained in the long term. Accordingly, action has taken in the form of an organizational restructure, inclusive of a new management team. Current figures for the first six months of the new financial year indicate a change in financial position as we have recorded a surplus of just under $100,000.00. Pleasingly, this result has been achieved exclusively through managerial/administrative changes rather than any reductions in delivery of service to hospitals.

Rev. Amail Habib, Whanganui DHB *Courtesy of River City Press*

In fact, Chaplaincy delivery in hospitals has increased. Over the past year, ICHC Hospital Chaplains have

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walked alongside approximately 310,804 patients, families, and staff. We have been involved in many difficult cases and have received encouraging messages like this:

> "*Having suffered a nervous breakdown, I was most impressed by the two female chaplains who were available to us on the ward. They took part in daily ward life without being invasive at any time. It was very reassuring to know they were available to talk yet they did not force themselves upon anybody or try to preach their particular religious inclination.*"

In an effort to build clearer communication and professionalism with Chaplains and Stakeholders, we have appointed four part-time Regional Chaplains, a part-time Communications Advisor and honorary Lead Chaplains in each hospital. While the roles are still new, we have received positive feedback from around the country with reports of positive relationship building, information sharing and support for local hospital Chaplains. Three of the four Regional Chaplains who are now essential members of the organisation's leadership team are Anglican. They include Rev. Julian Perkins, Rev. Barbara Walker and Rev. Peter Brown with Presbyterian Rev. Sandra Wright-Taylor in the South.

In consultation with from the Ministry of Health, ICHC has undertaken preparatory work on transitioning towards an outcomes or 'results based' accountably framework for future reporting to Government. It is anticipated we will enter a new three year contract with Government to continue providing this essential service in July this year.

Over the past year, we have seen two of our Chaplains become ordained and take up specialized roles in their hospitals. Anglican, Rev. Henk Lups specialises in Transitional Chaplaincy walking alongside patients in Nelson who are transitioning into aged care facilities. Presbyterian, Rev. Amy Finiki specializes in Forensic Mental Health. We are also excited to be offering a new Internship program at Porirua Hospital, which will be training interns in Mental Health Chaplaincy. The first intern, Anglican Rev. Cath Growcott begins in February 2018.

Priorities for ICHC over the next 12 months will be to invest in strengthening relationships with our primary stakeholders, the church and to establish a series of policies that will standardize and SmartTrack our ministry within the 21 DHBs throughout the country.

We cannot thank you enough for your perseverance, dedication and prayers for ICHC and Hospital Chaplaincy in Aotearoa, New Zealand. We look forward to growing a stronger, Christ centered ministry with you in the coming year.

In Faith,

Rev. Tim Pratt