



# Media Release

9 May 2011

## Mid North Health Service Review

---

In 2009, Northland DHB established a project to review the continuum of health services in the Mid North district. The goal of the project was to consider the role of current and future health care services in the Mid North and to develop a model of care for the Mid North to meet the future health needs of the population between now and 2020.

For the purposes of this project the Mid North district encompasses the areas and surrounds of Hokianga (South), Kaikohe and Kawakawa (described as the western corridor) and Whangaroa, Kerikeri, Bay of Islands (described as the eastern corridor).

Stakeholder interviews resulted in general agreement on the future direction of health services in the Mid North and on 5 October 2009, the Board resolved to:

- **Invest** in a community health services platform by developing integrated family health centres
- **Develop** five different integrated family health centres to meet local population divergent needs at Hokianga, Whangaroa, Kerikeri, Kaikohe and Kawakawa.
- **Retain** inpatient medical beds, diagnostics, emergency services and a renal unit at Bay of Islands Hospital, Kawakawa
- **Explore** partnership options.

The review recommendations and Board decision were not publicly released at the time for several reasons. Further work was required to develop the resolution into an action plan and capital had not been allocated to the project. The review signalled no significant change in service delivery and wider public consultation was not necessary at that time.

Previous press reports indicating plans to relocate the Bay of Islands Hospital to a site near the airport in Kerikeri are misleading, in that there was never a plan by the DHB to move it to that site.



Northland DHB chair Tony Norman says during the review a private consortium in Kerikeri advocated for the relocation of the Bay of Islands Hospital from Kawakawa to a site closer to Kerikeri and the airport site was a suggestion by that group.

“The review was not about bricks, mortar or 'selective electives', rather it was all about health and support services in the Mid-North.

“A review is not the only mechanism on which health decisions for the Mid North are made. In today’s economic environment, there are opportunities for the development of private public partnership to establish integrated family health care centres in the region like Kerikeri, providing opportunities for co-location of general practice, support services such as radiology and possibly day facilities to support an older population maintaining independence,” said Mr Norman.

The Bay of Islands Hospital will not be closed and it will retain emergency services, inpatient beds (including renal dialysis), maternity and diagnostic services.

Mr Norman said, “I wish to thank all those people from Kerikeri who emailed myself and the chief executive and acknowledge that health services are important to all stakeholders and that the Kerikeri community will be fully consulted on the development of an Integrated Family Health Care Centre in the medium term.”

-Ends-

**For further information, please contact:  
Fleur King, Public Relations Manager  
Northland District Health Board  
Phone (09) 430 4101 ext 3315**