

The Consumer Council is now in its third year, we have provided consumer input to a range of projects and areas within our hospitals in Northland, the diverse number of services that are provided by our DHB continue to keep us busy.

We currently have two places available on the council and if you or somebody you know, think you have something to add please make contact with us. We are specifically looking for people who have had first hand experiences with our DHB rather than representing an organisation. Please find more details on the DHB website under Consumer Council.

Could I take this opportunity to thank Dr Alan Davis who has worked with us since we started, his vision and support of the Council has got us to where we are today, it is interesting to comment that I regularly get calls from other DHB's throughout the country asking about our council as they too can see the benefits of consumer input and are forming one.

Having a Champion within the staff has been so important to us and as we continue to learn how services are delivered and the interaction between staff and patients is becoming more import. Dr Mike Roberts and Margareth Broodkoorn continue to support us for the benefit of all the patients that deal with our health board. The question, "What do the consumers think?" is a basic question but has increasingly become more important.

We will continue to be the voice of users of hospital services to make sure they are what we want and need.