



18 May 2010

The contingency restructure of Cranford Hospice, including redeployment of staff to the temporary hospice inpatient unit at Hawke's Bay Hospital, was released on Monday.

Presbyterian Support East Coast (PSEC) chairman Mike König said the planning had taken longer than expected due to the many submissions by staff and the NZ Nurses Organisation (NZNO) during the consultation process.

Though the restructure would only reduce nursing staff full time equivalent positions from 23.5 to 22 it will also mean an increase in full time or near full time positions. Household team staffing would reduce from 2.8 full time equivalent positions to 0.6.

"Taking the submissions into consideration and working directly with the NZNO and Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB), positive changes were made to the original proposal put to staff last month," Mr König said.

All staff have been asked to apply for the new positions by 4pm Wednesday May 19.

This is stage one of the restructure at Cranford Hospice with phase two involving a broader whole of service scope to begin once this initial restructure was completed, he said.

A redeployment and selection panel appointed which will be chaired by Cranford Hospice Executive Director Barry Keane, and will also include senior HBDHB managers.

Once redeployments were finalised Cranford Hospice nursing staff would join DHB nurses in caring for patients at the temporary inpatient care unit at the hospital, Mr König said.

The Cranford Hospice facility would remain open as an administration and care coordination hub for community specialist palliative care provision in Hawke's Bay.

A 24 hour coordination service from the hospice, has been established where referrals and requests for clinical support will be managed.

The community nursing team will continue to support patients living in the community though under a reconfigured and more flexible model.

"The recent audit report on the hospice gave support for the clinical care and direction of change at Cranford Hospice, however, by shifting the inpatient unit temporarily to the hospital we have time to address the infrastructure changes recommended by the audit and to replace the two doctors who have recently left us unable to provide 24/7 cover for the in-patient unit.

"The move has no impact on the up to 140 patients currently cared for by the Cranford Hospice team in the community.

"Every effort is being made to restore the in-patient service to its rightful place at Cranford Hospice for the people of Hawke's Bay.

"Our priority is to ensure sustainable, up-to-date, in-patient and community based palliative care continues in Hawke's Bay," Mr König said.

**All media enquiries are to be requested via Damon Harvey – 021 2886 772.**