

Chairman and Chief Executive's Review

During a year of significant clinical achievement and strong financial management we have seen a greater focus than ever by CMDHB around the future planning needed to meet the projected health needs of our people. Widely accepted forecasts show CMDHB [and the greater Auckland region] will have the largest population growth over the next 20 years, as well as experiencing a significant shift upward in the age profile of its population.

The year to 30 June 2008 was marked by the successful completion of a very comprehensive Health Services Plan (HSP) which gives us the blueprint for the development of health services in this district over the next 20 years. It is the first time we have expanded our services planning to take a 'whole of society' approach and this gives us an excellent foundation upon which to build improvement in the health and wellbeing of the Counties Manukau population.

It also gives us the necessary framework to be able to plan for this considerable population growth which we know will be a feature of the next two decades. We have started to prepare for this by identifying our service requirements and therefore our facilities needs into the future, along with the best way to staff and deliver the services. This is whether it be in a hospital based setting or within the community. Much effort has gone into carefully considering what and where capital investment is necessary and fiscally affordable and what development is needed around our crucial workforce.

The HSP also set the scene for our next major achievement this past year. We started from the position that the quality of care provided to the Counties Manukau population whilst excellent in many ways, could be improved. To become an organisation that provides high quality care to

each patient, every time, will require us to focus on continuously improving each of the dimensions that define health-care quality. We have therefore through our own Quality Improvement Unit, produced a Quality Improvement Strategic Plan. This is a crucial document for the direction the organisation wishes to take and this emphasis on quality improvement will pervade all facets of our current and future health services development.

The focus on quality has also been the genesis of the Centre for Health Services Innovation. Excellent progress has been made towards establishing a Centre to focus on health workforce development which is critical if we are to deliver to the needs of our community. This past year Counties Manukau DHB has worked closely with our education partners to lay the groundwork for this exciting and forward thinking venture which will ultimately improve the capacity of the health sector to deliver quality services.

This has been a year of consolidation of some of our key programmes with many successes across the whole system. Our focus on chronic disease has increased with there now being over 13000 enrollees in our Chronic Care Management programme, a 34 percent increase from the previous year. We have also been able to avoid over 4000 hospital admissions by working with our partners in primary care who provide alternative options to secondary or hospital based services. We are proud of the progress of our Primary Health Organisations (PHOs) who have consistently achieved 90 percent of their Performance Targets.

This past year has seen a growing and maturing of the relationships with our PHOs and we have agreed to work together to develop a joint approach to Healthy Localities.

This is a key strategic initiative bringing together the major players within defined localities to work with the communities that our residents relate to. We see this as an important initiative to really focus on the continuing inequalities that exist by focussing on the specific needs of those communities. Great progress has already been made by integrating groups in Mangere and the next year will see more localities defined and plans developed.

Our hospital services also had an extremely productive year. Elective Surgery not only increased in 2007-08 from the previous year, but the surgery team managed to exceed the contracted volumes, reduce the average waiting times and achieve record elective volumes. This was an outstanding achievement in the face of huge range of pressures and our thanks go to all of the clinical and support staff in both our own hospitals and the private sector. In line with building excellence into our future services, we commissioned a new Intensive Care Unit. We are very grateful for the major financial support received from the South Auckland Health Foundation for this purpose and generally for the continuing extraordinary level of support we receive from this Foundation. We also saw welcome reductions in babies being hospitalised, increased access to specialists and procedures and the planning for several large and important public health programmes.

We ended our year with the production of a major Business Case proposing the next phase of building re-development, initially on the Middlemore site but in later years, over our other major facilities sites. We hope for a successful outcome from this request so that we can develop the excellent 21st century services that our population deserves.

Financially, this has been a very successful year with CMDHNB achieving virtually all its key clinical targets yet declaring a surplus in its operating expenditure against the Government requirement of a breakeven position. This surplus, as in previous years, is retained by CMDHNB and is allowed to be carried forward and used in future years.

As we look back over a busy year, we thank Pat Sneddon and the previous DHB Board. Their stewardship provided a very sound platform upon which we have built on this year by maintaining their worthy standards of disciplined financial management balanced with clinical excellence. We also thank the new Board as well as management for what has been a most successful year.

Finally, we thank everyone who has contributed to the exciting achievements of the past year and acknowledge how important that sound base is for the challenges and opportunities to come.

Gregor D. Coster

Professor Gregor Coster
Chair



Geraint A. Martin

Geraint Martin
Chief Executive

