

IN FOCUS



News & views about Our Health from Hawke's Bay DHB
Chief Executive Keriana Brooking

13 August 2020

Kia ora everyone

I arrived on Monday to Hawke's Bay DHB to a wonderful and welcoming Pōwhiri – it was special and emotional and the memory of the day will stay with my whānau and I forever.

There is no other district health board I would have applied to for the role of chief executive other than Hawke's Bay.



My passion is making a difference and health is where you can make that difference. Every day I wake up pleased and proud to be part of the health and disability service in New Zealand. I believe in public service and it's hugely important to me.

I have worked in health for nearly 20 years. I have come from a DHB, PHO and Ministry of Health background. My last role was as Deputy Director of Health System Improvement and Innovation - my last months however have been consumed by COVID-19.

Coincidentally, my starting at the DHB has timed in with us moving to Alert level 2. It's been good to see the processes here responding to the pandemic, already embedded, swing back into action. Testing numbers have increased dramatically in the community and we are confident public health has the capacity to cope with a large upsurge should it be needed.

Our first focus will be supporting general practice and primary care, aged residential care facilities and our public health team - as this is where we will prevent an outbreak.

We have this – while it's concerning it's not unexpected. We need our hospital services to carry on so people can continue to receive the care they need without our specialist services being overburdened with the weight of COVID. We can only do this through effectively managing any outbreak that may occur in the community.

Over the coming days and weeks I will be trying to get around to meet as many of you as possible throughout the health system. Many of you I have worked with through the variety of roles and functions I have previously held.

It's great to be finally here.

Ngā mihi,
Keriana

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Keriana Brooking'.

Keriana Brooking
Chief Executive Officer
Hawke's Bay District Health Board