

Media Release

From: Jill Stringer, Communications Advisor

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Subject: Hip and Knee operations at Masterton Hospital

"Hip and Knee joint replacement operations will continue to be provided at Masterton Hospital in both the short and long term," says CEO David Meates, in response to concerns expressed at a Greypower meeting last week. "Regrettably, the message about additional funding for some DHBs to perform more joint replacement surgery has been misunderstood by some members of the public. Wairarapa did not get any additional funding, because we are already doing above the national average of joint replacement operations for our size of population, and we will continue to work at this level."

The Wairarapa has a higher than average percentage of residents over 65 years, and population projections indicate that this will double over the next 20 years.

"Wairarapa DHB employs two orthopaedic surgeons, and also utilises the services of visiting specialists," says Mr Meates. "Our orthopaedic service is in good shape, and we are able to meet our waiting times targets."

Ends

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