

Media Release

From: Jan McLaren, Communications Advisor

Date: 12/07/04

Subject: Hope for Children

The Wairarapa DHB is concerned about a charity called "Hope for Children" approaching local businesses to raise funds to support the children's ward at Masterton Hospital. "Hope for Children" plans to put on a variety concert for special needs children on September 19th in the Frank Cody lounge and is canvassing businesses to sponsor tickets for the children to attend the show. They say they aim to raise "several thousand dollars" to support children at Masterton Hospital.

Businesses asked to support the project have expressed concern about the unprofessional nature of the approach from the Palmerston North-based charity organisation and have received faxed letters containing spelling mistakes and few details about the project. The DHB has not initiated the fundraising project and has not officially approved the projects through the appropriate channels. The DHB recommends that business houses do not contribute to this fundraising unless and until WDHB gives official approval. If this occurs any correspondence using the name of the Masterton Hospital or DHB will carry the name of the Chief Executive, Mr David Meates.

The DHB has asked "Hope for Children" to return any donations from businesses received so far.

ENDS

Contact:

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