

Media Release

From: Jill Stringer, Communications Advisor

Date: 1st March 2004

Subject: Masterton Hospital Mental Health beds re-designated as 'Crisis Respite'.

From Tuesday 2nd March, Ward 9 at Masterton Hospital will change to provide Crisis Respite Care, instead of Inpatient Mental Health beds, for the next 3 months. This is the direct result of significant staff shortages in the inpatient service, which means all rostered shifts could not be appropriately covered.

“The safety of patients is always our top priority”, says CEO David Meates. “After intensive discussion with staff, we identified that the best way forward is to re-designate the Acute Inpatient Unit (Ward 9) as a Crisis Respite Service. Staff believe this option will have the least impact on patients needing inpatient services.”

For most parts of the Mental Health service, this will mean no change to services. The Child Adolescent Mental Health service, Methadone and Community Detox service and Community Mental Health service remain unchanged.

Arrangements have been made to access to appropriate beds within the central region as required. Staff currently working in the inpatient unit will work as required in the Crisis Respite service, and may otherwise be redeployed to other areas in the Mental Health Service, particularly the Community Mental Health Team, for the next 3 months.

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