



Press release

ADHB plans to cut staff costs in children and elderly services “abhorrent”

The Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) is reported to be planning to reduce a \$12M deficit in surgical and other services by cutting staff costs, reportedly by not filling vacancies.

New Zealand Resident Doctors Association national secretary Dr Deborah Powell says the proposed cuts mean already stretched staff will bear the brunt of the inevitable increased workload. Additionally the proposed cuts are directed at the most vulnerable, families with children and the elderly.

“Demand for services will not be reduced and staff retrenchment will result in further pressure on those who remain, running the risk of patient care being compromised and difficulty attracting high quality staff to this work environment.”

Dr Powell says staff are at the heart of healthcare delivery and quality of care should start with the ADHB supporting and fostering its staff. “ADHB’s kneejerk staff cost-cutting solution to its budget deficit fails to address the underlying problem of appropriate funding levels needed to meet increasing demand.

“It is abhorrent that part of the staff cuts alluded to are in services for children and older persons, the most vulnerable in our society.”

Additionally the \$12M deficit to be addressed by staff reductions is less than 1% of ADHB annual budget. “This is just a fraction of the overall ADHB budget and should not be used as an opportunity to make deep scale cuts to staff and health services.”

Contact person:

Dr Deborah Powell

National Secretary RDA

09 623 3993