



MEDIA RELEASE

RESIGNATION OF DEBBIE CHIN, CEO CCDHB

21 July 2017

The New Zealand Resident Doctors' Association (NZRDA) congratulates Debbie Chin for her work at Capital and Coast DHB. Earlier today, Debbie Chin announced her resignation from CCDHB, to take effect later this year.

"Debbie Chin has led CCDHB to become one of the most productive DHBs in the country," says Dr Deborah Powell, National Secretary. "The NZRDA has appreciated Debbie's honesty and also her availability in situations where issues required escalation. Debbie was prepared not just to listen, but also to get things moving."

The NZRDA acknowledges that not everything has gone to plan, such as the ambitious '3D' initiative (seeking to align services across the wider Wellington, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa region), but Debbie's style of leadership meant new practices were nonetheless always being tried. "Wellington Hospital was amongst the first to make available physicians on duty to directly supervise resident doctors in the care of patients in the evening," says Dr Powell. "This change has meant a better deal for both resident doctors and patients alike."

However, the NZRDA has a warning to sound. "Increasingly, productivity is being achieved at the expense of adequate staffing," says Dr Powell. "CCDHB is understaffed on a number of fronts, including having insufficient doctors available to cover absences. As a consequence, resident doctors are being left to cope with normal patient workloads despite being below minimum safe staffing levels." The NZRDA is currently working with the CCDHB to get this situation resolved.

NZRDA wishes Debbie Chin well in her future endeavours.

Contact

Dr Deborah Powell
National Secretary
New Zealand Resident Doctors' Association
Phone 021 614 040

Resident Doctors

Resident doctors (RMOs, or Resident Medical Officers) are registered medical practitioners, and range in experience from first-year qualified doctors to those with more than 12 years' experience. They primarily work in the public sector, where they are employed by all 20 District Health Boards.

Resident doctors staff New Zealand's public hospital system, delivering 24/7 care to patients, and also utilise this time to gain specialist qualifications as surgeons, physicians, paediatricians, etc.

Resident doctors are also employed in general practice as GP trainees; however, these doctors are not involved in this dispute as they are not DHB employees.