

“Waitakere Health Link has provided Waitemata Health Board with a community perspective with regard to its communities in the Waitakere area and brings to our attention health issues in this area. We appreciate your ongoing support for engagement with our Waitakere Communities.”

Imelda Quilty-King, Community Engagement Co-Ordinator, WDHB

“As Chair of the Waitemata DHB Community and Public Health Advisory Committee for the past 3 years I have very much appreciated the input from Waitakere Health Link. They have been able to keep us fully informed on local issues through their newsletters and 2 monthly reports to my committee and have been of great help in establishing ECC 24 hour services for Waitakere. Tracy has had her turn on my committee and been very constructive with her thoughts and wishes for the Waitakere Community. Without her and her hardworking committee, health outcomes in the west would be the poorer.”

Warren Flaunty, Board Member, Waitemata District Health Board

“Waitakere Health Link was an idea ahead of its time, forming a community group to influence DHB policy development, monitor implementation and advocate for improved community based healthcare. This is still a challenge, but in true Waitakere style the community have kept that voice loud and strong. Thank you.”

Penny Hulse, Past Executive Member and Deputy Mayor, Waitakere City Council

“Waitakere Health Link has been a critical broker between the community and health providers and has fostered a unique spirit of collaboration. WHL has focussed attention on critical health issues and provided a positive focus for the voices of community. The values established from the original Waitakere Health Plan have provided a solid foundation for progress.”

AJ (Tony) Rea, Group Manager: Social & Cultural Strategy, Waitakere City Council

“It has been a decade of huge changes for Waitakere and the west and wonderful news for Waitakere Hospital. The battle for 24/7 emergency care has finally been won. Congratulations also on the new childrens services and a wonderful Waitakere based heart-care service. Many thanks to the lovely team at Health Link.”

Brenda Brady, Councillor, Waitakere City Council

“Waitakere Health Link has meant that we have had an equal voice from our community direct to the District Health Board. We have had the benefit of some wonderful people contributing to the group from all parts of the health spectrum and a cross section of our community who have strongly lobbied for better health services and facilities for us in the West. Thanks must go to Maureen Wood for her chairmanship over many years and of course Meredith's baking. As a Councillor tasked with the wellbeing of our people I have felt very reassured by the tireless work of the Health Link Executive and thoroughly enjoyed being part of the team 2004 to 2007.”

Linda Cooper, Councillor, Waitakere City Council

“A very good vehicle for accessing a strong community voice on important health matters. WHL has been the community “conscience” for WDHB and PHOs.”

Alan Greenslade, Greenslade Consulting Ltd



W A I T A K E R E
Health Link

*Celebrating
10 Years
in the
Community*



*Ensuring the community voice is heard
in healthcare decision making.*

The Waitakere Health Plan 2000

During the 1999 and 2000 the Waitakere community was involved in the consultation process for the Waitakere Health Plan. The plan was needed to meet the challenges of a range of health issues facing Waitakere communities such as population growth, ageing and increasing ethnic diversity. Historic problems such as the divide between primary and secondary services were recognised to be a significant barrier to coordinated patient care. It was seen that addressing these problems required effective leadership and collaboration between healthcare providers, as well as community participation to ensure that the services provided were meeting the needs and aspirations of the communities being served.

Waitakere Health Link was established to monitor the Waitakere Health Plan, to ensure that the strategic initiatives in the plan were carried out and that the community voice would continue to play a significant role in healthcare planning and decision making.

The establishment of Waitakere Hospital was one of the most important strategic initiatives in the plan. The community had campaigned for this hospital for over 40 years. New services promised included an emergency department, medical and surgical inpatient services, increased child health and maternal health services including a special care baby unit, improved health services for older adults, extended outpatient services, and diagnostic and therapy services.

Waitakere Health Link continued to advocate for increased services at Waitakere Hospital with the most recent success being the opening of the Emergency Care Centre 24/7 for children in July 2010.

Past and Present Members Memoirs

“Looking back at when Waitakere Health Link first started 10 years ago, it’s hard to believe that we didn’t have our hospital and that Waitakere residents had to pay to be taken by ambulance to Auckland or North Shore Hospital. The Ranui Action Project had just started, we hadn’t even heard of PHOs and the Asian Health Support services had only just began. The Waitakere Health Plan seemed a great idea but the concern in the community was that it would remain just that - a plan sitting on a shelf somewhere gathering dust. So Waitakere Health Link was formed, firstly to ensure that this didn’t happen, and secondly to ensure that there would continue to be community input into healthcare planning and decision making. Now we have training for consumer representatives, the community voice represented on PHO Boards and DHB committees, an NGO network, and excellent credibility within both the Waitakere community and the Healthcare sector for the work that WHL does. This is a great achievement and I congratulate the WHL coordinators and the executive committee, especially Maureen who has lead the organisation through some challenging times. I am very proud to have been part of this journey and I wish Waitakere Health Link all the best for the future and a very happy 10th birthday.”

Meredith Youngson, Founding Co-ordinator

Waitakere Health Plan
Towards 2010

Our Mission Statement
Waitakere Health Link fosters effective collaborative relationships between communities and healthcare providers through consultation, advocacy and monitoring.

Our Vision
Our vision is for community involvement in health care decision making processes to become part of the culture of our healthcare organisations and communities.

Waitakere Health Planning Group
October 2000

Logos: Waitemata HEALTH, Wai Health, Waikato District Health Board, Invercargill Primary Care Partnership Ltd, Waitakere City Council

“I remember going to a public meeting at the Waitakere Hospital grounds and wanting to start digging for the building of a Real Hospital in Waitakere.”

Corrie Van der Hulst, Member

“Being part of the inaugural WHL Team was my introduction to community work wider than the mental health sector. It was also with encouragement from Meredith, Penny and other WHL people that I was one of 40 candidates for the local body elections (as a Waitemata DHB candidate) in 2001 - the first (and still only) time I have ever considered being part of governance at that level. Being part of WHL was really enjoyable and gave me a significant boost in confidence and an increased sense of value to my community.”

Gary Sutcliffe, Past Executive Committee Member

“Looking back over the past 10 years, Waitakere Health Link has continued to work on ensuring the community voice is heard in health care decision making and expanding new initiatives. I continue to be proud of its achievements in this area and look forward to the next 10 years.”

Kay Lindley, Current Executive Committee Member

“One of the first things I realised after the establishment of WHL was how as we sat around the table at our executive meetings with the different entitled/provider members that they seemed quite unaware of the extent of the services each provided. They were soon networking and really seemed interested in how they could work together and also acknowledged that the community had a great deal to offer. For me that was a great start for the inclusion we were hoping for.”

Maureen Wood, Founding and Current Executive Committee Member

“It’s incredible to think that 10 years ago Waitakere health organisations and professionals, city council, community groups and individuals worked collaboratively to discuss, consult and assess the health needs of the people living in this beautiful city. Waitakere Health Link was established to be the facilitating organisation between the community and decision makers. It is a testimony to the vision, hard work, advocacy, fundraising/budgeting, planning and consultations with key stakeholders that so much has been achieved for the community. With new Auckland City looming in the horizon in October 2010, it will be interesting to see what the next 10 years will bring for the people of Waitakere.”

Bonnie Dowling, Current Executive Committee Member

“Rodney Health Link congratulates WHL on their 10th anniversary. Health Links provide linkages and liaison between Waitemata DHB, Primary Health service providers, NGO’s and the health consumers of the communities that we serve. We work together collaboratively, as we experience the same tensions and frustrations in our endeavors, making sure that the community voice is heard in health care decision making. It is a pleasure working with Maureen, Tracy and Susan, their knowledge and experience is great, keep up the good work.”

Margaret Willoughby, Co-ordinator, Rodney Health Link