

Media release

29.6.11

School-based health services in Counties Manukau To Continue

Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) is pleased to announce that the DHB has committed funding for the next two years to allow the school-based health services to continue in decile 3 to 5 South Auckland secondary schools. These are Alfriston College, Papatoetoe High School, Edgewater College and Tuakau College. Further funding has also been secured from CMDHB to allow school-based health services to continue in decile 1 and 2 schools until June 2013, (from July 2011 until June 2012 these services are funded by the MoH). These schools are Mangere College, Southern Cross College, Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate, De La Salle College, Tangaroa College, Auckland Seven Day Adventist High School, Manurewa High School, James Cook High School, Papakura High School, Aorere College and Wesley College.

The funding from the Ministry of Health for the decile 3 to 5 schools was due to end on June 30th 2011 but CMDHB has committed to find the funding over the next two years. This has come as great news to schools and nurses alike who faced uncertainty around the services. Tina McCafferty, Acting Director of Service Integration at CMDHB is delighted to confirm the continuation of the school-based services in secondary schools. "The educational benefits to these young people are closely linked with their health. We have a very dedicated team of specialist youth health nurses who provide a free, on-site and youth-friendly service," said Ms McCafferty.

Over 53,000 young people are seen each year in the school health service, for issues ranging from skin conditions through to mental health concerns. The service provides both early intervention for problems and referrals to other services as needed, thus reducing school absence and exacerbation of health issues. Another aspect of the service is the provision of a full health assessment at year 9 which covers all aspects of physical and emotional well-being. The service is well appreciated by parents, teachers and the students who have easy access to non-judgemental, youth-specific nurses who actually enjoy working with this challenging group of people.

Ends

For further information please Sue Miller 021 225 8254