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Intended audience; Whanganui DHB staff and service providers

## **Update on Whanganui Rising to the Challenge: Mental Health and Addiction Services Development Plan Project**

16 September 2013

Work is now underway on the development of *Whanganui Rising to the Challenge: The Mental Health and Addiction Service Development Plan*.

The plan for Whanganui's mental health and addiction services in the next five years and beyond is required to meet government expectations outlined in the recently released *Rising to the Challenge: The Mental Health and Addiction Service Development Plan 2012-2017*.

*Whanganui Rising to the Challenge* will be developed in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders in the local mental health and addiction sector, including users of the services, their families, specialist staff, provider organisations and primary health care teams.

The process will be led by the Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Planning Group (MHASPG) established in June 2013. The membership of this group is;

- Dr Frank Rawlinson, WDHB Mental Health and Addiction Services clinical director (Chair)
- Frank Bristol, Consumer Expert
- Mike Ward, NGO Expert
- Grace Taiaroa, Maori Expert
- Barbara Branford, Family Expert
- Dr John McMenamin, Primary Care Expert
- Dr Terry Johnson, Specialist Mental Health Expert
- Dr David Montgomery, Child and Youth Expert
- Tracey Schiebli, General Manager: Service & Business Planning
- Andrea Bunn, Senior Portfolio Manager: Mental Health Services.

Dr Suzanne Gower, has been appointed as Project Manager to assist in the plan's development. Suzanne is from Rotorua, and has previous experience managing planning projects with DHBs, PHOs and NGOs.

The next step in the project is to establish four workstreams that will represent the four population groups outlined in *Rising to the Challenge*;

1. People with low-prevalence conditions and/or high needs
2. Infants, children and youth with high-prevalence conditions
3. Adults with high-prevalence conditions
4. Older people with high-prevalence conditions.

These workstreams are small groups that will be meeting in workshops during October.

In addition, the project team will be meeting with other stakeholders to gather information that will assist the workstreams.

Regular project updates will be provided.

Inquires may be directed to the Project Manager, Suzanne Gower at [suzanne.gower@xtra.co.nz](mailto:suzanne.gower@xtra.co.nz) or on 0274 352 870