

## The Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy

### Report

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#### 1 Introduction

The Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy (IHC) has just completed the second year operating under its current five-year contract with the Ministry of Health.

#### 2 Our work and resources

There is a requirement on the IHC to provide a statistical report to the Ministry of Health and each District Health Board (DHB) on the activities of the Chaplaincy Services in each DHB hospital. These reports show that nationally over the past year, chaplains and chaplaincy assistants working in 48 hospitals:

- made 352,661 visits to patients, relatives of patients and hospital staff
- provided 78,160 individual acts of worship
- provided 3,135 regular corporate worship services and 972 special corporate worship services
- attended 5124 callouts to patients with serious conditions
- were present offering support at the deaths of 2053 patients
- provided 4,736 room blessings, following death, traumatic incidents or other events
- presided at 451 funerals of patients
- attended 6,934 patient related meetings and family conferences, and 4825 other meetings
- made 4630 referrals of patients on to other services, including spiritual leaders of other faiths etc
- provided 2065 education sessions for hospital staff, chaplaincy groups or community organisations
- attended 2799 education sessions including training sessions for chaplains, hospital staff etc

At 30 June 2010 the IHC was providing indemnity insurance cover for **636** people involved in the provision of the Hospital Chaplaincy service nationally. 510 of these were volunteers and 123 paid staff. They included 275 voluntary chaplaincy assistants, 95 paid chaplains, 21 locum chaplains, four full-time equivalent national office staff, six chaplaincy office administrator/fundraisers in larger hospitals, 221 members of Local Hospital Chaplaincy committees and the 14 members of the IHC national Trust Board.

The IHC Trust Board has been able to increase the subsidies paid from the Ministry of Health funding to each Hospital Chaplaincy position by 4 percent from 1 July 2010. This takes the subsidy for a full-time chaplain to \$31,200. The local Chaplaincy Support Committees, with help from local churches, the community and in some cases hospitals and DHB's, raise the balance of each chaplain's stipend package.

The fourth national **Hospital Chaplaincy Appeal**, in September 2009, raised almost \$150,000.

### 3 The future

The Government expectation is that the ICHC partner Churches will continue to provide their share of funding for the hospital chaplaincy positions. This requires continuing efforts by ICHC on behalf of the partner Churches to obtain funding from congregations and local communities to maintain the existing Hospital Chaplaincy positions, which are currently set at one full-time chaplain for each 200 beds of a hospital.

ICHC thanks the **Presbyterian Church partner** for its on-going support and for its members who serve as chaplains, chaplaincy assistants, locums, on Chaplaincy Committees and on the ICHC Board. It is our hope that it will be possible for you to continue to provide people and encouragement as we work together to maintain this front line Christian service, which in the words of the Ministry of Health contract...

*“...contributes to the improvement of the overall health status of patients in hospitals particularly where illness has presented a threat or trauma, or where people are disabled -*

- *Meeting the spiritual, emotional and pastoral needs of patients*
- *Giving patients a sense of control over relevant life circumstances*
- *Bringing comfort and hope*
- *Reducing the impact of stress and trauma.”*

The Rev Chris Nichol and Mr Andrew Johnston represent the Presbyterian Church on the ICHC Trust Board. The Rev Max Reid and Miss Prue Neild are Presbyterians who are also on the Trust Board as “Additional” Trustees.

**Ron Malpass**

National Executive Officer