Purpose of paper

This paper provides a summary of the themes emerging from the submissions received relating to the current review of health services on the East Coast and needs to be read in conjunction with the summary of themes from the collated community consultation hui. To date there have been received submissions from: Tokomaru Bay community, Gisborne Stroke services, Oasis Counselling and Therapy services and the combined unions.

Summary of themes

Location of facility

Three of the submissions saw Te Puia as the central location for future services, while Oasis made no comment. Gisborne Stroke believed its potential as a central location could be enhanced with an increased emphasis on rehabilitative and patient education services; described what an effective Stroke Support service should and could offer Coast communities; and also saw their own potential to contribute to this was currently restricted by funding.

Whist not specifically stating Te Puia was their preferred option the combined union submission’s entire content was prefaced on Te Puia continuing to be the future central location for East Coast health services.

The Tokomaru Bay community also refuted the report’s discussion of Puhi Kaiti being the management hub in the future, indicating their preference was that management was also based at Te Puia, and noted that Te Puia’s full potential had yet to be realised. Their submission also included a request for a comprehensive feasibility study be carried out should there be any question of relocation of the hub away from Te Puia Springs including areas such as reticulation, sewerage, land, buildings, human resources, social impact etc.

Rebuild or refurbishment

Only the Tokomaru Bay community and combined unions’ submissions made reference to future facility type. The former submission stated the facility should be a purpose built facility, whether it is new or a combination of new and existing buildings.

The latter expressed significant concern about moving to a new facility build as saw this would have a negative impact on future employment options in Te Puia and neighbouring communities, and on the future size and make up of Te Puia itself

Service exit

Again only the Tokomaru Bay community and combined unions’ submissions discussed service exit options: the former argued for an enhancement of all services currently available, and a capturing of opportunities as they presented, by reconfiguring to ensure sustainability e.g. mobile dental service, purpose built facilities.

The combined unions focussed on aged care specifically, suggesting a refurbished Te Puia aged care service providing Rest Home, Dementia and Hospital care levels may suit East Coast service users and increase the number of residents.

Financial sustainability

Tokomaru Bay community submission acknowledged that NPH needed to rebuild financial sustainability: suggesting the use of vacant buildings be explored for other income sources
not necessarily health related; that effective models either nationally or internationally should be investigated. Their submission also wanted transparent systems that show processes and allow community input/involvement.

**Relationships**
The Tokomaru Bay submission also was clear about the requirement for the three organisations (TRONPnui, NPH and TDH) to continue working together to achieve improved health services and health outcomes.

**General comments**
Oasis Counselling and Therapy services (currently contracted by Ngati Porou Hauora (NPH) for the provision of Occupational Therapy services for the Coast) noted that there was no reference in the review document to occupational therapy services nor is there any mention of them in the proposed changes to the configuration of services. Oasis concluded that this was more likely due to the review’s timeframes, and that occupational therapy would still be a component of future NPH services.

The combined unions wanted the issue of pay parity for NPH staff to be addressed, suggesting that alternative sources of revenue to supplement health revenue should be sought, giving local and business groups as two possible examples.

Tokomaru Bay community wanted a review of the existing contracting structure with TDH, suggesting future contracts are condensed and made more flexible and user friendly.

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