

Media Release

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9 December 2015

The Chair of the Bay of Plenty District Health Board (BOPDHB) Sally Webb has announced the appointment of Helen Mason to the role of CEO of the organisation.

“The Board is delighted to announce Helen Mason as the CEO replacing incumbent Phil Cammish who is retiring on 29 January 2016 after 10 years in the role,” said Sally Webb. “Phil has made a valuable contribution to both the Bay of Plenty DHB and the community we serve, in his role as Chief Executive. He should be proud of the progress this DHB has made under his leadership.”

“Helen brings with her not only strong knowledge and experience with the BOPDHB, but also her recent experience as a Harkness Fellow where she had the opportunity to expand her skill set internationally.

“Helen is no stranger to the BOPDHB having been with us for 17 years working in a number of roles, most recently as the General Manager Innovation and Special Projects and formerly as Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Planning and Funding.

“The Board is excited about the future of health in the Bay of Plenty with Helen leading an executive team and staff of experienced and dedicated people. The Bay of Plenty District Health Board is well positioned to lead health developments not only in the Bay of Plenty but also nationally,” said Sally Webb.

Short biography of Helen Mason

Helen started her career in health as a registered nurse and a midwife before moving into the private health sector and the pharmaceutical industry. Originally from Zimbabwe, she has also worked in Scotland, England and Australia.

Helen has held a number of positions at the Bay of Plenty District Health Board. She started as a Flexi nurse at Tauranga Hospital, before becoming a Nurse Manager and then a Decision Support Advisor. As General Manager Planning and Funding she was accountable for leading strategic planning and for purchasing a wide range of primary and secondary health care services. As Chief Operating Officer, Helen led the delivery of secondary health services through our hospitals in Tauranga and Whakatāne, community health centres at Opotiki, Te Kaha and Murupara, mental health inpatient and community services, and regional community services.

Her professional interests include advance care planning, the social determinants of health, vulnerable populations and quality improvement.

Helen's M.B.A. is from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, and her nursing and midwifery qualifications are from the College of Nursing and Midwifery, Addington Hospital, Durban. She is on faculty at Harvard Medical School.

In 2014-15 Helen was awarded the New Zealand Harkness Fellow in Health Care Policy and Practice, and was an Institute for Healthcare Improvement Fellow in Boston, USA. Helen is married to Max Mason and has a 20 year old son, Mungo.

The Bay of Plenty District Health Board

Covering 9,666 square kilometres, our DHB serves a population of 221,000 and stretches from Waihi Beach in the North West to Whangaparaoa on the East Cape and inland to the Urewera, Kaimai and Mamaku ranges. These boundaries take in the major population centres of Tauranga, Katikati, Te Puke, Whakatāne, Kawerau and Opotiki. Eighteen Iwi are located within the BOPDHB area.

The BOPDHB's activities range from delivering health and disability services through its hospitals in Tauranga and Whakatāne, community health and disability services, and mental health services, through to support functions such as the clinical directorate, corporate services, and information management services. The DHB also plans health service development, funding and purchasing a wide range of health service for the region, through 413 contracts. These contracts include primary care, aged residential care, dental services, pharmaceuticals, mental health services, laboratory services and homebased support services. The DHB has a strong focus on improving Māori health. The DHB will receive \$706 million during 2015/2016 to fund these activities.

The BOPDHB has just under 3,000 full-time and part-time staff, including around 1,400 nurses and health care assistants and just over 300 specialists and doctors. The Governance Board has 11 members, including the chairperson, who represent the people of the region.

For further comment:

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