



14 August 2024

Extended Care Paramedics Responding to the call to support Primary Care in Greater Wellington



Extended Care Paramedics from the Tū Ora Compass Health network recently met to discuss paramedics working in general practice; and network with other Paramedics and ECPs within the wider Wellington area. The day enabled a sharing of experiences and an exchange of ideas, aimed at improving the quality of patient care services in general practice.

The team are finding the integration of Paramedics in Primary Care is progressing well, their experience in the field combined with their broad knowledge has made an impact with their respective practices and community health services.

We would like to send our gratitude to the guest speakers:

Jacquelyn Manley, Chief Executive and Registrar & Kirsten Cook, Deputy Registrar from *Kaunihera Manapou* Paramedic Council for providing insight on changes in the regulatory space for Paramedics.

Jess Morgan-French, Interim Chief Executive from Collaborative Aotearoa on the work they have done in creating a toolkit for practices looking at employing paramedics and extended care paramedics.

News Article / Media Release

Homeless & High Need Consumer expert, Steve Flude, for enhancing the team's knowledge on approaching vulnerable communities.

Also, to our very own Melissa Gane (Diabetes Nurse Specialist), Karen Macpherson (Mental Health Service Lead), and Dr Louise Poynton for presenting as well.

Byron Williams, Tū Ora Extended Care Paramedic Team Lead, is excited about the program's future.

"We see the positive impact ECPs have in primary care, and how valuable they are to the practice teams. Both Paramedics and Extended Care Paramedics are highly trained professionals who with the right tools and support can be used to enhance primary care across the motu" he said.

"Commonly we see both Paramedics and ECPs who work in general in practice support with same-day acute care when patients present needing to see a health professional. They're another tool in the kete to reduce the need for patients who could be seen in primary care to resort to afterhours care, or the Emergency Department."

Tū Ora Compass Health continues to collaborate with Wellington Free Ambulance, to support Paramedic Primary Care opportunities, increasing the bandwidth of Primary Care to achieve better health outcomes.

ENDS

For more information, contact communications@tuora.org.nz.
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