



Abstract: Conference Presentation (2015 July): New Zealand Royal College of General Practitioners

The Health Hub Initiative: Piloting a solution for health care in crisis

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Everywhere in the world, across all types and levels of care, health systems are in crisis. Globally, hospital admissions are on the increase, and the increase indicates that the primary care system is faltering. In Palmerston North, escalating demand for emergency services, beyond the capacity of the ED to cope, reflects the crisis.

The Presentation reports the development of a concept of integrated population health care and community based health education - the Health Hub, designed to address and resolve the crisis locally; and its implementation into practice as a pilot project, demonstrating the efficacy and workability of the Concept in-action.

The report is in two parts covering:

- (i) Key elements of the Concept, which include - a) supporting population health policy and effective practice research nationally and internationally, b) horizontal and vertical integrative organisation design features, c) doctor / nurse-practitioner co-lead, interdisciplinary, diagnostic practice teams and care practice teams, and d) population segmentation to co-ordinate and deliver personalised - population health care, internally and in the community via partnership and outreach; and
- (ii) Concept implementation covering - a) mobilisation of funding and support, and b) pilot project design, including action-research and evaluation, in situ, documenting the structure and functioning of the concept in-action, and monitoring and reporting progress.

Discussion will comment on factors supporting and or impeding Health Hub development as a type of population healthcare and health education provider, new to the Region, and prospects for ongoing and wider implementation.