Eastern Health

MEDIA RELEASE

1 November 2026

Alexandra District Health joins Eastern Health with local leadership and representation confirmed

Alexandra District Health has officially joined Eastern Health today, with local leadership and Board representation confirmed, as the two health services come together.

Former Alexandra District Health Board member Alan Studley has been appointed to the Eastern Health Board, while former Interim Chief Executive Officer Claire Palmer will continue to lead the local health service in her new role as Divisional Director of Alexandra District Health.

Alexandra District Health will retain its local identity, with existing healthcare services continuing to operate and staff remaining in their current roles and locations.

The amalgamation builds on a long-standing relationship between the two health services and will provide greater access to Eastern Health's clinical expertise, specialist services and resources.

This will create opportunities to deliver more services locally, including expanded specialist clinics, additional low-complexity surgery, a new three-chair dialysis service and improved access to diagnostic services.

Eastern Health Board Chair Eugene Arocca said the amalgamation was an important step in supporting the future of healthcare in Alexandra.

“Alexandra District Health has been caring for this community for generations, and we know how important it is for local people to have access to quality healthcare, close to home.

“Joining Eastern Health means we can work together on the services already in place, while bringing additional expertise and resources.

“Having Claire continue to lead Alexandra District Health, alongside Alan's appointment to the Eastern Health Board, means we retain valuable local knowledge and strong connections to the community.”

Mr Studley said he was pleased to continue his involvement in local healthcare through his appointment to the Eastern Health Board.

“Alexandra District Health has always been an important part of our community, and I know how much people value the care and support they receive from our local health service.

“We have a lot to be proud of, and this is an opportunity to build on that work and make sure our community continues to have access to the healthcare it needs.

“I'm looking forward to working with my fellow Board members and bringing my knowledge of Alexandra and surrounding communities to discussions about the future of our health services.”

Local healthcare staff will also benefit from greater access to training, professional development and support through Eastern Health's broader network.

The amalgamation will also see locally raised funds and donations continue to support healthcare services in Alexandra, while the existing Community Engagement Committee will continue to provide opportunities for local people to contribute to service planning.

Alexandra District Health and Eastern Health have worked together for many years, including through local oncology services, workforce development and planning for additional healthcare services. The amalgamation builds on this existing relationship, with a continued focus on maintaining local services and improving access to healthcare for Alexandra and surrounding communities.

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