

COLWYN HOUSE CHAPLAIN'S REPORT SYNOD 2012

Kia ora -

Colwyn House Rest Home in Mahora, Hastings offers 24 rooms for residents with stage 3 dementia needs in our 'Matai Wing': and a further 24 rooms for residents with psychogeriatric needs in our 'Kowhai Wing'. Built privately in 1997, it was purchased by Anglican Care (Waiapu) Limited in 2008.

In the next 12 months we plan to open a third Wing to exclusively serve residents with stage 3 dementia needs, thereby freeing up 'Matai Wing' to serve Hawke's Bay's growing need to provide rooms for residents with psychogeriatric needs.

In January of this year I began a one-day per week role as Chaplain to Colwyn House. I alternate between our two Wings fortnightly every Sunday offering morning prayer and hymns - and being available to residents, their whanau, our Registered Nurses, Diversional Therapist, Caregivers and other staff.

By the time our residents arrive at our Home they are often affected by dementia and a complex range of communication challenges. Hence, life at Colwyn House is lived with a vast range of emotions; frustration mixed with beauty, love mixed with tolerance, and patience mixed with perseverance.

However, difficult days in our two lounges are always punctuated with quick-witted quips, friendly smiles and knowing chuckles from our residents. For me the added beauty of life at Colwyn is watching the dignity, care and love our staff provide residents regardless of how desperate the situation.

It is because of this continual care shown by our staff that I am supporting a motion to this Diocesan Synod that they be accorded more respectful pay rates by the present health system.

Leo Te Kira
Chaplain