



## Media Release Wakefield Hospital: New Operating Theatre

New Zealand's first fully high definition integrated hospital operating theatre will be opened by the Minister of Health, Hon. Tony Ryall at Wakefield Hospital on Thursday, 12 March 2009. This new operating theatre will increase the number of surgical theatres at Wakefield Hospital to seven, providing additional capacity for surgery for more patients, both publicly and privately funded.

“Not only will Wakefield be able to conduct more surgery, this new technology enables surgeons to undertake more complex minimally invasive surgery”, said the Chief Executive of Wakefield Health, Andrew Blair. “This reflects a worldwide trend towards minimally invasive surgery and continues Wakefield's determination to stay at the forefront of private surgical services”.

“Wakefield Hospital's digital operating theatre is the first true high definition, fully integrated operating theatre in New Zealand, and utilises the most advanced technology available in the world today”, said the General Manager of Medipak New Zealand, Peter Wright, representing the suppliers, Karl Storz at the official opening of Wakefield Hospital's new theatre.

The new technology enables surgeons to undertake the most exacting surgery. “What the new theatre at Wakefield Hospital will provide is a significant advance in the quality of endoscopic picture for surgeons, allowing for increasingly advanced sinus and skull base procedures for example”, said Mr Simon Robinson, a leading Sinus and Facial Plastics Surgeon.

Chief Executive, Andrew Blair added, “providing this additional capacity, and new technology, for both public and private patients makes good sense and is an example of the important relationship between the public and private healthcare sectors which is emerging in New Zealand. This is a tangible example of what a “balanced healthcare system” can offer. That is a healthcare system aimed at better utilising scarce health resources and capital to the benefit of all New Zealanders”.

Wakefield Health is also due to commence a major re-development of facilities at Bowen Hospital, Crofton Downs, Wellington, which will also increase the regions operating theatre capacity with the construction of five new theatres due to commence later this year.

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