



Media statement
04 December 2006

WAKEFIELD HEALTH LIMITED

Wakefield Health Limited chairman, Mr John Calder, today announced the retirement of Mr Richard Barnes as Chief Executive, effective 31 March 2007.

“Richard foreshadowed his retirement intentions to the Board some considerable time ago, so we have had the opportunity to develop with him the process to ensure a smooth transition in terms of succession. We wish to formally acknowledge and pay tribute to the very valuable contribution Richard has made over the last seventeen years. He has played a vital role in the continued development of Wakefield Health over that time.

Under Richard’s leadership the company has been transformed from a small private hospital into what is today an NZX-listed entity with a market capitalisation of more than \$100 million. This has given us the capacity to ensure we remain at the forefront in terms of quality and value in the provision of facilities and services to the growing private health market.

The Board also wishes to announce the appointment of Mr Andrew Blair as Chief Executive of Wakefield Health Limited, as successor to Richard Barnes.

Andrew is currently Wakefield’s Chief Operating Officer, and was CEO of Royston Hospital Limited for ten years prior to its merger with Wakefield in January 2006. Andrew was President of the New Zealand Private Hospitals’ Association for six years, and continues to serve on the Association’s Executive Committee. The Board looks forward to working with Andrew as he leads the next phases of Wakefield Health’s development. His appointment is effective from 1 April 2007” said Mr Calder.

Ends

Issued by Wakefield Health Limited