**Strength Today.
Hope for Tomorrow.**

Molly's Story

Hospital Chaplaincy
AMOKAPUA HOHIPERA
AOTEAROA

How hospital chaplaincy helped one young mum find strength and hope.

Christmas is a time we associate with joy and togetherness. **But for families spending the season in hospital, it can feel like the loneliest and hardest time of all.**

When Molly* first met hospital chaplain Rosemary, she was sitting quietly beside her baby daughter in the neonatal unit. Her little one had been in hospital for several weeks, and every day was filled with worry.

As they talked, a gentle trust began to grow. Molly shared that she had been struggling with drug addiction and longed for a fresh start — for herself and her children. She spoke of feeling lost, unsure if she could ever rebuild her life.

Rosemary's role wasn't to judge or fix, but to walk alongside her in faith — listening, encouraging, and reminding her that she wasn't beyond hope or grace. Sometimes they prayed together, asking for strength and peace. Other times, they simply shared conversation, celebrating small milestones — a good feeding day, a moment of calm.

Gradually, Molly's outlook began to change. **She started to believe that her past didn't have to define her future, and that she was not alone in her journey. Her confidence grew, and with it, a quiet faith that she could begin again.**

Slowly, Molly's outlook began to change. One day, Rosemary said to her,

> *"There has been such a change in you since I first met you. You look so much more confident now—ready to go home and begin making those positive changes you long for."*

Molly smiled, asked for a hug, and said softly, *"Thank you so much for your support."* For Rosemary, that moment captured what chaplaincy is all about — being a calm, faith-filled presence when life feels overwhelming.

Every day across Aotearoa, hospital chaplains walk alongside patients and families like Molly's, offering compassion, prayer, and encouragement when it's needed most.

This Christmas, as we celebrate the season of hope, we invite churches to stand with us — helping ensure no one in hospital has to face these moments alone.

*Name changed to protect identity