

Heart & Soul

Update for Churches



Hospital Chaplaincy

AMOKAPUA HOHIPERA

AOTEAROA

HEART & SOUL

A Message from our CEO

As we begin a new year, we are immensely grateful for the ways so many church communities continue to walk alongside Hospital Chaplaincy Aotearoa. We know that many churches are facing real challenges — fewer people, stretched finances, and increasing demands on time and energy. Please know how deeply we appreciate your faithfulness in the midst of this.

Your support makes a tangible difference in hospital rooms and corridors every day. One such story is Raewyn's. When she was unexpectedly admitted to hospital with no family nearby, a visit from Matt, one of our chaplains, became a lifeline. His calm presence, prayer, and willingness to listen helped her navigate a frightening and uncertain time.

Your support also helped make moments of joy possible during December. Across Aotearoa, chaplains and volunteers brought Christmas carols into hospital wards, where the sounds of carols brought connection, hope, and peace in places of illness and anxiety.

These moments — quiet conversations at bedsides, songs echoing through wards — are made possible because churches choose to stand with us. Whether through prayer, financial giving, practical support, or simply encouraging this ministry, every contribution matters.

As we look ahead, we invite you to continue supporting Hospital Chaplaincy Aotearoa in whatever way you are able. Together, we can ensure that people facing illness, uncertainty, or loneliness are reminded that God's love is present with them, even in hospital.

Visit www.hospitalchaplaincy.org.nz to find out more about our 'Heart & Soul' initiative for local churches.

Barry Fisk

CEO, Hospital Chaplaincy Aotearoa



Thank you for supporting our Christmas appeal

A heartfelt thank you to all the churches who supported our Christmas appeal, 'Strength Today. Hope for Tomorrow.'

Your partnership made a real and tangible difference during the Christmas season, supporting hundreds of patients, whānau, and hospital staff at a time when many were facing illness or uncertainty.

Churches supported the appeal in many ways. Some gave a general gift, others took up special offerings or ran their own Christmas appeals. Some churches also supported chaplaincy in practical ways — collecting items for care packages or, in one case, providing catering to support local carol singing in the hospital. Each contribution helped bring comfort, care, and hope into hospitals over Christmas.

Looking ahead, our next church appeal will be Lent-focused, and we invite you to consider how your church might like to be involved as you plan for the coming months.



Resources will be available in the next couple of weeks, and we look forward to sharing these with you soon.

♥ Spiritual Support When It's Needed

A CHAPLAIN'S PRESENCE WHEN IT WAS NEEDED MOST

At the start of 2026, Raewyn faced an unexpected hospital admission at Wellington Hospital. With no family in the city at the time, she found herself navigating complex medical decisions and uncertain news on her own.

Just when she needed support most, Matt, a chaplain from Hospital Chaplaincy Aotearoa, visited her. Through the faithful support of churches like yours, Matt was able to offer a calm, compassionate presence — bringing reassurance, prayer, spiritual care, and a listening ear at a moment of deep need.

“He was the perfect person for me to talk to, and his support was really significant for me. It made such a difference knowing someone was there to listen and care.” — Raewyn

Matt sat with Raewyn, helping her process what was happening and reminding her she was not alone. His presence provided comfort during a time that could have been overwhelming.

“I was so glad to be there for Raewyn when she needed it. Sometimes a patient is a delight to the chaplain as well. This was one of those times.” — Matt

Stories like Raewyn's remind us of the powerful impact of your church community's generosity.

Your prayers and support help ensure that those facing sudden change, fear, or uncertainty are never alone — that someone compassionate is there to walk alongside them, offering hope, comfort, and God's love exactly when it is needed most.



SPREADING JOY THROUGH CHRISTMAS CAROLING

In December, the spirit of Christmas filled the wards of many hospitals across Aotearoa. In Whangarei Hospital a wonderful team of volunteers and supporters provided carol singing across multiple wards, bringing together Volunteer Chaplaincy Assistants, staff, an ex-patient, and a special group from YWAM (Youth With A Mission).

The first week, they visited the four medical wards, followed by the four surgical wards the next. Word quickly spread, and soon requests came from other specialised areas, including cancer, mental health, maternity, and the renal unit. Everywhere they went, they were met with smiles, tears, and heartfelt appreciation as they shared love, joy, and peace through song.

Some moments really stand out: nurses recording the carols on their phones; mental health staff, patients, and chaplains joining in a circle in the mental health unit; a dementia patient dancing with his wife while she wiped away tears; and turning an out-of-tune piano into something angelic in a patient lounge.

These simple acts of music and presence reminded everyone of the true spirit of Christmas — connection, compassion, and hope. Thanks to the ongoing support of churches, moments like these can take place across Aotearoa.



Hospital Chaplaincy
AMOKAPUA HOHIPERA
AOTEAROA

Through your support as a **Heart & Soul** ministry partner, your church is actively outworking its mission by supporting chaplains like Matt and patients like Raewyn. Your contributions bring hope, comfort, and spiritual care to those in need.

Thank you for being part of this vital ministry.

PO Box 11211, Manners Street
Wellington 6142

Ph: 0800 246 7242
E: info@hospitalchaplaincy.org.nz

Registered charity CC21346
www.hospitalchaplaincy.org.nz