

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR LOCAL HOSPITAL

Hamilton has few hills – the Cathedral occupies one, and another is the site of a national treasure, Waikato Hospital.

It is a very large hospital, and, judging by the many helicopter movements, it takes emergencies and complex transfers from many parts of the North Island. If you have spent any time there, you will know how many specialties are represented, and just how privileged we are to host a huge medical and support workforce in our district. The staff are indeed the core of this enterprise, from the ladies who mop out your bathroom, through to the experienced specialists.

This workforce is changing, and you'll notice for instance that many of our nurses are from overseas. This presents many training, immigration, and certification challenges; we pray for insight and wisdom as difficult balances must be struck. We pray too that our city provides a welcome for all staff who choose to work here. Of particular note is the incoming cohort of young women in Junior roles; let us pause and think of all those Secondary School teachers who urged their brightest girls to have a crack at medicine. That work is paying off. We pray too that it gets easier for women to remain in the medical workforce, and to specialize.

Spare a thought too for the Henry Bennett Centre; psychiatric disorder is something we prefer not to talk about, for fear that we'll be forced to confront aspects of our society that we would prefer kept hidden. The staff there are under enormous pressure.

We all have favourite passages from the Gospels where Jesus healed the sick, almost everywhere He stopped. Part of His reputation was as a healer, succeeding where others had failed, pressed on every side with requests to make the injured whole again.

What better example could we wish for?

Please pray for our healers on the hill, the restorers of sight and consciousness, the restorers of sight to the inly blind, and for those who train and sustain them, not forgetting the ladies who bring you your food; they quickly become the most important people on the Ward.

So when you have time, walk to Innes Common and look east across the lake.

Richard Swarbrick