



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Sunday 18 November 2018**

### **Waikato DHB Physiotherapists Strike Tomorrow**

More than 50 Physiotherapists and Physiotherapy Assistants employed by Waikato DHB are set to commence strike action tomorrow morning at 7.00am. The strike is due to frustration over a failure by Waikato DHB to make any offer in settlement for their collective agreement despite having been in bargaining since April of this year.

“It is extremely disappointing that our members have yet to receive an offer in writing” says Luke Coxon, Advocate for APEX – the union representing Physiotherapists and Physiotherapy Assistants. “The continued delays have been holding up the bargaining process and have left our members in abeyance.”

Mr Coxon continues “what is most concerning is that Waikato DHB confirmed on Thursday it was in a position to table an offer however the DHB has yet to provide APEX with anything. APEX has been available to attend mediation since the issuing of the strike notice but the DHB opted not to attend last week prior to the strike. Mediation is now set for Wednesday 21 November”.

The strike will comprise of a complete withdrawal of labour, commencing at 0700 on Monday 19 November and ending at 0700 on Tuesday 20 November.

#### **ABOUT PHYSIOTHERAPISTS**

Physiotherapists are specialists in the management of neuromuscular, cardiothoracic, and musculoskeletal conditions that impact on an individual’s function and ability to participate in their daily lives. Physiotherapists are registered health professionals with a minimum four-year bachelor’s degree. They must be registered with the New Zealand Physiotherapy Board and must demonstrate participation in regular professional development in order to maintain registration.

Physiotherapists work in a multitude of settings (including private clinics, public hospitals, schools, gyms and communities), and with people right throughout the lifespan (from neonates to the elderly). They have extensive knowledge of body anatomy, function, and movement, and as such are key to facilitating recovery. Physiotherapists are involved in the treatment and management of:

- Neurological conditions such as stroke, Parkinson’s disease, and cerebral palsy, head injury.
- Cardiovascular conditions such as heart disease, COPD, and asthma.
- Musculoskeletal conditions such as arthritis, injury, major trauma.
- People recovering from surgical procedures such as hip and knee replacements, cardiac surgery and neurosurgery.
- Other specialty areas such as women’s health and continence, lymphedema, pain management and burns.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

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