



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday 9 October 2018

### **Northland DHB Anaesthetic Technicians lift Strike Notice**

16 Anaesthetic Technicians employed at Northland DHB have lifted notice of strike action set to start at 0700 hours this Thursday as bargaining between APEX, the union representing anaesthetic technicians, and NDHB appears to be making progress.

“After a failed offer last week and the strike that followed, bargaining between the parties has continued this week,” said Dr Deborah Powell, National Secretary of APEX. “Whilst actual settlement is yet to be achieved, strike action set for this Thursday will not go ahead in anticipation of progress at the table.”

#### **UPDATE ON STRIKE ACTION ELSEWHERE**

- In Rotorua, mediation failed to reach a settlement and an offer subsequently made by the Union was rejected by Lakes DHB. The strike tomorrow is therefore set to proceed followed by further action Thursday 18 October.
- In Hawkes Bay, APEX received an offer the day before the last strike, that offer was rejected, and further strike action is set for October 24<sup>th</sup>.
- In Southern, members have voted on strike action but not issued any notices yet. Discussions with the DHB are continuing.
- Midcentral Anaesthetic Technicians are voting on an offer from their employer.

#### **ABOUT ANAESTHETIC TECHNICIANS**

Anaesthetic Technicians are essential members of the surgical team. They work mainly in operating theatres, providing skilled assistance to the Anaesthetist. Anaesthetic Technicians check and maintain the anaesthetic machines and other related equipment, ensure appropriate equipment and drugs are available, assist with inserting airway devices and venous/arterial cannulas, and act as advocates for patients. While Anaesthetic Technicians work predominantly in operating theatres, they are called upon to work in any area where an anaesthetic may be given, including CT, MRI & radiology, ED & intensive care.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Dr Deborah Powell is available for comment on 021 614 040