



MEDIA RELEASE

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Waikato DHB Physiotherapists Voting to Strike

More than 50 Physiotherapists and Physiotherapy Assistants employed by Waikato DHB are balloting on strike action due to frustration around not receiving any offer of settlement for their collective agreement from the DHB.

“It is extremely disappointing that our members have yet to receive an offer in writing despite APEX and Waikato DHB first meeting to negotiate the now expired collective agreement at the start of April” said Dr Deborah Powell, National Secretary of APEX. “The continued delays are holding up the bargaining process and leaving our members effectively ‘in limbo’”.

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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