



Waitemata
District Health Board
Best Care for Everyone

DHB Board Office

15 Shea Terrace
Takapuna, Auckland 0622
Private Bag 93-503, Takapuna
North Shore City 0740
Telephone: 09 486 8900
Facsimile: 09 486 8924
www.waitemataahb.govt.nz

March 28, 2018

For immediate release

Eleanor hangs up her green coat after 17 years

North Shore Hospital's longest serving volunteer, Eleanor Thomson, completed her last official shift on March 22 after 17 years of meeting and greeting visitors.

"It doesn't seem real. It comes with mixed feelings, really. I'm sad I'm finishing and this is the last time I'll wear this uniform but excited about what's ahead," Eleanor said at her farewell event.

Eleanor, of Chatswood on the North Shore, was part of the first group of volunteer greeters at North Shore Hospital in 2001.

"I thought it was a great way to put something back into the community, having been a patient here before," she says.

"It's a great feeling to be able to help people."

The volunteers are now affectionately known as the "Green Coats" and assist patients and visitors getting around the hospital.

Waitemata DHB Director of Patient Experience, David Price, says Green Coats help direct patients and visitors on arrival, alleviating stress in what can be a distressing time.

"Eleanor has kindly donated hundreds of hours to our organisation and we are very grateful for her generosity, commitment and support over the past 17 years."

David says new volunteers are always needed at Waitemata, whether they greet people at the door, help keep the gardens beautiful, visit patients on the ward or gather feedback from patients and visitors.

"Our volunteers are valuable members of Waitemata DHB and we are always appreciative of the time and effort people like Eleanor give so selflessly."

Volunteers of varying age, gender and ethnic background are welcome at Waitemata DHB. They are provided with a uniform, training and parking.

Call Genevieve Kabuya on 021544862 for more information on how to get involved.