

Media Release

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Hibiscus Coast Community Health Centre staff putting themselves on the wall

Patients and visitors at Hibiscus Coast Community Health Centre in Red Beach are enjoying a colourful new reception area – thanks to staff.

As part of a team building exercise, centre staff were given a small canvas and invited to create their very own masterpiece, using one of three colour palettes – yellow, green or blue.

Each canvas was then grouped together by colour and turned into pieces of large art to put on the walls of the reception.

“This was a great way for the different teams working in the community health centre to connect with each other,” says Paula Abbey, Team Manager for Rodney Adult Community Mental Health.

“And it generated lots of laughter and tea room conversations.”



Ann Sarah – District Nurse Manager Rodney (L) and Paula Abbey – Team Manager Rodney Community Mental Health (R)

Staff could do anything they wanted – paint, draw, collage, or even cross stitch.

Some chose to focus on their own history and what was important to them and others took a more artistic approach – the results are fantastic.

“My initial thought was sheer terror – art was the only subject I failed at school!” said one of the team.

“But it was fun and got us all talking about it. The clients coming to see us also love them.”

The new reception art has been a talking point for patients who have shared their appreciation.

“Our art helps patients see us as individuals. It makes our interactions more personal and builds connections which is so important for both patients and staff,” another staff member says.

Paula previously organised the redecoration of health centres in Tauranga and Whakatane by staff and has plans to do the same in Warkworth and Helensville.

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