



Dear Colleague

what's new at braemar?

A new role at Braemar Hospital will bring GPs and specialists closer together for the benefit of practitioners and patients...



Dr Lynda Priest's passion for general practice has never been greater. The part-time GP and mother of three says caring for her patients and helping them to cope with whatever comes their way is as important now as it was when she entered general practice in 1996.

But she has also discovered she has an aptitude for teaching and supporting other GPs and it is this which is driving her new role with Braemar Hospital.

Dr Priest has been appointed Braemar's GP liaison representative, a new role in which she will plan and set

up education programmes for GPs through which they can learn from the leading medical specialists who practise at the private hospital.

The appointment signals Braemar's move towards providing continuing medical education (CME) for GPs. Since 1995, general practitioners have been required to undergo re-certification to maintain their vocational registration. Most do this through meeting requirements to become Fellows of the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners and then participating in credit-based re-certification through CME courses.

“ We have to improve our medical education to ensure it meets the needs of professionals and the public. ”

CME training is provided by a range of public and private medical institutions throughout New Zealand, including Bryant Education Trust at Waikato Hospital. Braemar will be the only private hospital offering the service in the Midlands region.

Dr Priest says she is looking forward to the role because it brings together all

aspects that are crucial in supporting and developing the work of GPs in New Zealand.

“This is about meeting a need that needs to be met. It is giving GPs access to leading medical minds and specialist management techniques. It is about closing the gap between GPs and specialists, which is good for patients and good for hospitals.”

That echoes the views of others in the medical profession who say GPs need to be equipped to deal with the challenges of their role and to work in partnership with their colleagues in the hospital sector to maintain continuity of care. The result, they say, will be a platform for greater integration between hospital and community services.”

Lynda Priest says GPs are under huge pressure to up skill, alongside their day-to-day work at their practices. She says the demands of general practice are increasingly diverse and challenging with more complex care being provided in the community.

“We have to improve our medical education to ensure it meets the needs of professionals and the public.”

Her own career as a GP began 15 years ago when she worked part-time at Davies Corner Medical Centre in Hamilton,

and part-time at Waikato Hospital as a locum paediatric SHO while caring for her two children, Oliver and Harry.

She later became a partner at Northcare Medical Centre, building her practice up to 1500 patients. During that time, she also mentored GP trainees and young hospital doctors.

It was at this time that she experienced the stress of balancing her professional and personal lives. "I experienced professional burnout brought on by a number of factors, including the tragic death of a young patient. I simply didn't have anything left."

She took some time out and discussed other options with professional career advisors.

"What came out was that, while I loved consulting, I also enjoyed teaching and mentoring."

She says her name was put forward for the Braemar position by Braemar orthopaedic surgeon, Ian Dingwall.

The role, coupled with two-and-a-half days in general practice, has enabled her to restore some balance in her life – and indulge her creative passions of art and sculpture – while providing the stimulation of setting up exciting training programmes linked to Braemar's state-of-the-art facilities and world-class specialists. "As I have a passion for general practice, it's good to be able to support general practice."

Dr Priest plans to run Braemar's first GP mini conference in February next year.

“It is about closing the gap between GPs and specialists, which is good for patients and good for hospitals.”

The conference will focus on practical components in line with the RNZCGP guidelines and education around new options for patient treatment. It will provide relevant CME training and complement existing CME education centres.

Topics could include orthopaedics (examination of joints, splinting and plastering); cardiology (hypertension, cardiac MRI); urology (developments in prostate cancer), plastic surgery (surgical techniques for skin excisions); paediatrics (braces, ENT issues), endoscopy (bronchoscopy and GI endoscopy), neurosurgery and anaesthesia, to name a few.

The full-day conference – the first of two planned in 2012 – is likely to accommodate between 40 and 50 GPs.

Dr Priest says the conference will give GPs the chance to view the facilities at Braemar, Waikato's most modern private hospital, and have some face to face access to the preseting surgeons and physicians.

"The beauty of this role is that it is such a great team. It's an exciting time."

Braemar Hospital accepts all medical health insurance policies including Southern Cross, Sovereign and Tower.

why choose a braemar hospital?

“Choice and Flexibility”

An ageing population, increasing demands and expectations, and the cost of new technologies provide challenges for both the private and public health sectors.

Medical and technological advancements have increased our ability to treat disease and injury. This has led to a greater expectation as to what should be achieved by the health sector. In the public sector the increase in complex surgery has come at the expense of lower cost surgery such as hernias and varicose veins, and the rationing system of waiting lists has led to these, and more complex procedures, being completed in the private sector.

Private healthcare offers choice and flexibility. It also offers access to some of the best Specialists in a timely manner without the restrictions of a waiting list.

At Braemar patients can be assured of a quality service at competitive rates and the very latest of modern medical technology.

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Dr Rob Cameron
Chairman

“Quality care costs less
at Braemar hospitals”

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