

Ground-breaking project gives a glimpse into the future of aged care.

One of New Zealand's longest running aged care organisations, CHT Healthcare Trust, is bringing the future into focus thanks to the new CHT Aged Care Fund, and backing a project set to transform care through a highly tailored, needs-based model.

CHT's dedication to continuous quality improvement and innovation, and its desire to support delivery of high quality care across the entire aged care sector, inspired it to establish the CHT Aged Care Fund in 2019.

Selected to receive the inaugural grant, Professor John Parsons of the University of Auckland is piloting a casemix project over a six month period at CHT's rest home, hospital and dementia unit in Te Awamutu, as a practical demonstration of how his casemix model can perform.



Project team: CHT Te Awamutu Unit Manager Anna Burgess, CHT Chief Executive Max Robins, Professor John Parsons.



"Currently, an assessment system is in place to establish funding and care however it is both outdated and only looks at diagnosis and bed type (rest home, hospital or dementia) rather than the actual needs of each person," says Professor Parsons. "As the population continues to change, residents are now older, more frail and have more significant needs requiring skilled nursing care."

Professor Parsons' casemix model uses 15 distinct categories across rehabilitation, clinical complexity, cognitive or behavioural issues, physical function and daily activity levels of an individual to form a full picture of that person, and more accurately determine their needs.

A specialist team from the Waikato DHB will also be seconded into CHT Te Awamutu for the duration of the demonstration, with results continually assessed by Professor Parsons.

Max Robins, Chief Executive at CHT Healthcare Trust says this project is now putting into practice the categories and assessing the casemix model in action, involving a small group of residents who are either stabilising post a hospital stay then returning home, staying for respite care, or for end of life care.

"Nationally, short-stay residents in aged care represent a significant proportion of all residents and use the most resources for providers," says Mr Robins. "So looking into how their care and funding can be improved is critical for the long-term future of the aged care sector."

Mr Robins says the CHT Aged Care Fund is an initiative that is unique in the aged care sector and has been established with a long-term view to instigating positive change.

"The charitable trust status of CHT is important because it means that all our surplus funds go back into improving our existing 16 facilities as well as the CHT Aged Care Fund," says Mr Robins. "They don't go into the pockets of shareholders like many other major aged care and retirement organisations."

Applications are now open for the 2020 CHT Aged Care Fund grant - simply apply online at www.cht.co.nz



Tailored-care in action at CHT Te Awamutu.