



TARANAKI HEALTH
FOUNDATION



ANGIOGRAPHY

Of the **110,000** people living in Taranaki, **41,000** are at risk from Heart Disease. Having just one person close to them means 82,000 people are affected.

The new angiography machine and suite at Taranaki Base Hospital will cost **\$3.6 million**.

The Taranaki Electricity Trust has pledged **1.2 million** and The Taranaki District Health Board will prioritise a further \$1.2 million from its operating capital. The rest is to be fundraised from the community by the Taranaki Health Foundation. The community fundraising campaign will be launched later this month.

Heart Disease is the biggest killer of New Zealand men and women aged over 40 years.

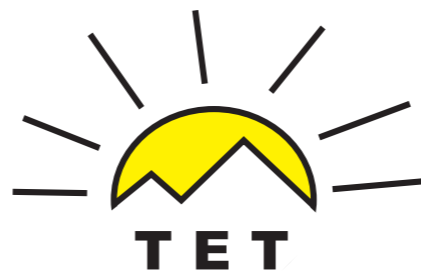
Maori and Pacific Islanders are **three times** more likely to suffer from heart disease early.

Each year about **400** Taranaki people visit Waikato Hospital for angioplasty treatment. That number will be reduced significantly with the new angiography machine and suite.

Angiography is an X-ray technique to visualise the inside of blood vessels. The machine will make it easier for everyone in our community to access cardiology and vascular care.

Angiography - at the heart of our community

TET Pledge Cornerstone Funding



By Virginia Winder

Fundraising for a new \$3.6 million angiography machine and suite for the people of Taranaki is a project close to everyone's heart, cornerstone funders say.

Because of that the Taranaki Electricity Trust (TET) has pledged \$1.2 million towards the much-needed technology. The Taranaki District Health Board (TDHB) will prioritise a further \$1.2 million from its operating capital, leaving the final \$1.2 million to be fundraised from the community by the Taranaki Health Foundation (THF).

The old angiography machine at Taranaki Base Hospital has reached the end of its life, so to meet the growing demand for angiography services, especially relating to coronary care, a new machine is needed.

With this brings an opportunity to provide a more inclusive technology to ensure more advanced procedures can occur within Taranaki.

Fundraising for the angiography suite at Taranaki Base Hospital is of critical importance for the future health of the region and is a project high on the Taranaki District Health Board's list of priorities, says THF chairman Michael Joyce.

"In a close-knit rural farming community like Taranaki, I don't think there would be a family not affected in some way by heart disease, whether it be a parent or grandparent."

Rosemary Clements, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Nursing Advisor, Taranaki DHB.

"If we can get this machine and suite installed that's going to be of great service and benefit to all people in Taranaki, whether they are suffering from heart disease or otherwise," he says.

"I want to see this province thrive and be one of the places of first choice for people to reside in and continue to reside in."

TET chairperson Brian Jeffares says of

"It's about our hospital being the pride of Taranaki. That doesn't just happen because we are parochial; we have to support our province and punch above our weight."

Brian Jeffares, TET Chairperson.

the 110,000 people who live in Taranaki, everyone has their health to consider – good, bad or spectacular.

"On that basis, the angiography suite is something that touches everybody," he says. "This way, everyone will get something from the trust."

He acknowledges that the Base Hospital is not in the TET area, which covers as far south as Te Roti and includes Stratford, Inglewood and north through to Waitara and Uruti.

But of the people who live in those areas many will need to use the angiography machine, dramatically cutting down the number of people who will have to travel to Waikato for diagnostic treatment.

"You never know when you might need it," Jeffares says.

"In Taranaki there are 41,000 people potentially who will have heart-related issues; that's a significant number of people and you can double that to see the people affected."

Each year about 400 Taranaki patients travel to Waikato to receive angioplasty treatment. The new machine and suite will cut that figure right back.

Jeffares says there is the whole issue of inconvenience around travelling to Waikato and back for treatment, which includes having family or friends take you and sometimes having to find accommodation.

Funding from the TET will enable people to be seen in the region and ensure the new Taranaki Base Hospital is used to its full potential.

"It's about our hospital being the pride of Taranaki. That doesn't just happen because we are parochial; we have to support our province and punch above our weight."

He refers to the Taranaki rugby team

winning that national provincial championship last year, saying that happened because there was an investment put into getting great players.

"Health is a bit like that," he says, explaining that you get the quality of treatment and equipment you pay for.

The TET itself has been touched by heart problems with past trust members affected. "Everyone knows someone who's had to go to Waikato."

Jeffares says the TET's contribution is just the start – and one he hopes paves the way for others to support the angiography machine and suite. "If we couldn't, on behalf of our community, support it, how could the Taranaki Health Foundation go to corporates and individuals seeking support? They will ask who else has fronted up. There had to be a start."

TDHB's Rosemary Clements says that when the new Base Hospital was built, a shell was left in the theatre area for the new angiography machine and purpose-built suite.

The room needs to be specially fitted out, says Clements, who is the board's chief operating officer and chief nursing advisor.

Having the new angiography machine in this area means the process will be more streamlined because pre-admission, treatment and recovery will be just doors apart. Instead of being able to treat four to five patients in a morning session, that figure would rise to six.

While most of the patients would be heart-related, the machine could also be used for removing stones from the bile duct, treating clots, doing epidurals and putting in tunnel lines for renal dialysis.

Clements says the main purpose is to reduce patient trips to Waikato for treatment.



Taranaki DHB and Taranaki Health Foundation representatives thank the TET Board for their generous pledge.

"In a close-knit rural farming community like Taranaki, I don't think there would be a family not affected in some way by heart disease, whether it be a parent or grandparent."

"One of the benefits of living in this day and age is we have technology to address heart attacks in a quick manner and that's what the angiography machine is about."

For specialist coronary advice, the films of someone's heart can instantly be sent to Waikato electronically so doctors in New Plymouth and Hamilton can discuss a patient's needs over the phone while looking at the graphic information.

"You are always going to have to go to Waikato for open heart surgery," Clements says. "But we will be able to do a lot more here."

Into the future, pacemakers and stents will be inserted in Taranaki.

The new technology will have other spinoffs.

Because fewer people will have to travel to Waikato for treatment, the anxiety of patients – and their family and friends – will lessen.

"It's traumatic to have something going on with your heart. It's an anxious time. If you are just coming here (Base Hospital) we can lessen the anxiety – it's a familiar environment and so are the people."

This will help people with recovery.

Another benefit is about attracting and keeping good staff. "We need to keep our

technology at a level that will recruit and retain good doctors."

Clements says there is also an excellent team of nurses who have been trained up in the angiography area and they too would benefit from the new machine and suite.

For everyone, having the best technology available is the heart of the matter for New Zealand's newest provincial hospital and everyone with a heart in Taranaki will benefit.

TARANAKI HEALTH FOUNDATION

The Taranaki Health Foundation is a non-profit organisation whose goal is to help provide leading-edge healthcare throughout the region. The foundation, formed in 1998, is in a fundraising partnership with the Taranaki District Health Board, so together they can better provide health and disability services, funding and planning for the entire Taranaki community.

For more information on our projects please check out our website: www.taranakihealthfoundation.org.nz or contact General Manager, Bry Kopu on 06 753 8688 or bry.kopu@tdhb.org.nz