



NEW ZEALAND PRIVATE SURGICAL
HOSPITALS ASSOCIATION INC

MEDIA RELEASE

NZPSHA Sustainability Awards 2015

NZPSHA announced the winners of the 2015 Sustainability Awards, sponsored by Baxter Healthcare. These awards recognise innovation and excellence in sustainability across NZPSHA's 25 members throughout New Zealand.

Gillies Hospital in Auckland won the "Best New Environmental Initiative" award and takes home a prize of \$1200. A waste audit at Gillies Hospital established that the hospital generated 122.6kg of waste to landfill in a 24 hour period and it was estimated that 42% of this waste could be diverted by being recycled or composted. The hospital installed a commercial scale worm farm to divert waste, made changes to its food ordering and catering methods and engaged staff commitment to the project, which was crucial to its success. A preliminary audit has projected a 64% reduction in food waste and an 82% reduction in waste going to the landfill.

Guest Judge, Dr Matthew Jenks, Southern DHB Consultant Anaesthetist said, "the team at Gillies has taken a big picture approach to the waste problem and employed various strategies to address this. Careful planning, robust auditing, regular meetings, and excellent communication strategies have been crucial to the successful result."

Mercy Hospital Dunedin won the "Best Bright Idea Environmental Initiative" award and took home the \$800 prize. In 2011, Mercy staff set two objectives; to reduce the waste being taken to the landfill and to produce sufficient compost to sustain the hospital's vegetable and herb plots. The Mercy team integrated the 'Plan, Do Study, Act Cycle' (Deming) and applied it to the project. Annual savings in waste disposal were achieved, along with "greener environment" compost being produced for the hospital gardens, along with a "culture shift" among their staff. The entry included data suggesting a significant reduction in waste to landfill and added benefits of staff satisfaction in the project.

Dr Jenks said that this was a fantastic project with a great end result. "Reducing food waste is a very effective way to reduce landfill waste and greenhouse gas emissions. It was a well planned project with lots of attention to detail and carefully implemented".

Dr Matthew Jenks, with fellow judges Cherie McConville and Rose Geden were impressed with the high calibre of entries. A focus on sustainability in the private surgical sector has become increasingly important to strike a balance between resource and consumption, which each of the winners displayed admirably. The 'buy-in' from staff and commitment to ongoing sustainability from not only the winners, but all of the submissions was excellent.

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