

Media Statement

For Immediate Release

24 November 2010

Chief Executive Appointed to Health Benefits Ltd

Health Benefits Ltd chairman Ted van Arkel today announced the appointment of Nigel Wilkinson as the organisation's chief executive.

Mr Wilkinson has been transitional chief executive of Health Benefits Ltd (HBL) since July. HBL is a crown-owned company established to lead the development of shared services for DHBs with the aim of achieving significant savings and efficiencies.

Mr van Arkel said Mr Wilkinson had been chosen from a wide selection of national and international applicants.

"Nigel has already played a key part in the establishment of Health Benefits Ltd and has proven he has the skill and leadership to help the organisation deliver on its long term goal of reducing costs of non-clinical support functions and harness the benefits of bulk purchasing."

"Nigel's experience in health management and his understanding of the New Zealand health sector will ensure HBL delivers quality support services for DHBs at a lower cost by working smarter and reducing duplication and administrative costs through shared services," Mr van Arkel said.

Mr Wilkinson has worked in senior management roles at Starship Hospital, Green Lane Hospital and Waitemata DHB before taking on the role of Chief Operating Officer for healthAlliance, a shared service provider owned jointly by Counties Manukau DHB and Waitemata DHB. He has been on secondment from healthAlliance to Health Benefits for the past 5 months.

Mr Wilkinson said he was looking forward to continuing the work of HBL.

"This is a great time to be leading HBL. It is a new organisation with new personnel and a strong mandate to deliver quality support services at a lower cost."

"I am excited to be leading HBL as we focus on a new model for doing business with DHBs, continuing the work of the past months and going out to the health sector to engage their expertise in developing and delivering on a national road-map for efficient processes and shared services," he said.

Mr Wilkinson moves into the role of Chief Executive immediately.

ENDS

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