



Cancer Society

Te Kāhui Matepukupuku
o Aotearoa



2021

Annual Report
Pūrongo ā-tau



A message from our Chair



Tēnā koutou,

The past 12 months have been a tumultuous time for the world and many aspects of life as we knew it have been changed utterly. The pressures on the health sector have been immense and have posed significant difficulties for cancer patients and those who work with them. I wish to acknowledge the tremendous work of Cancer Society staff and volunteers, who are at the forefront of the Cancer Society's work. COVID-19 demonstrated just how essential our services are, and even through lockdown, many volunteers and staff members did what they do best - awahi (support) those with cancer and their whānau.

The past year has also been important for our Federation, where, at the AGM in September 2020, our six Divisions unanimously voted to proceed with a Governance Review. From this vote emerged the Anga Whakamua/Forward Together project. The Board subsequently appointed the Ohu Kōkiri/Working Group, chaired by Maria Clarke, a not-for-profit governance specialist who has undertaken similar reviews for organisations in Aotearoa and overseas. The members of the Ohu Kōkiri represent our strength as an organisation - they reflect a geographical mix, both urban and rural, and are drawn from a wide range of backgrounds, including Te Ao Māori, Cancer Society operations, research, finance, fundraising, technology and more. Agreeing to proceed with a Governance Review is a timely opportunity to reflect on our decision-making structures and how we might be able to build on our strengths to serve those with cancer better.

The immense pressures of operating in the COVID era have underscored how timely the decision to embark upon the Review has been. The Governance Review is centered around co-design through repeated opportunities for consultation and collaboration. It is a project that the Federation has embraced and I hope to hear more of your voices as to the most appropriate outcome.

I wish to pay tribute to our National Chief Executive, Lucy Elwood who, with her hardworking team at National Office, has provided tireless leadership of our organisation, as have the Chief Executives of each of the Divisions who, also with their teams, have constantly gone above and beyond the call of duty.

I wish to acknowledge the immense contribution of Peter Hutchinson, who was the President of our Society and Chair of the Board for the past four years. Peter has had over 30 years of service to the Society initially through the Otago/Southland Division, then as a Board Member and finally as President. Peter's contribution has been immense, and was acknowledged by a Cancer Society lifetime Meritorious Service Award in September 2020. The Cancer Society has been very fortunate to be able to have his leadership. I also wish to acknowledge with grateful thanks the efforts of all of the National Board members, particularly the contributions of the other two Board members who retired during the past year. Dr Jonathon Koea and Kate Morrison served the Board as representatives of their respective Divisions and brought valuable skills and insights to Board deliberations during their time with us.

Further, on behalf of all of the Board, I thank the contributions of the individuals appointed to the sub-committees of the CSNZ Board. The Cancer Society benefits from substantial volunteered expertise on our National Science Advisory Committee (chaired by Dr Melanie McConnell), the National Health Promotion Advisory Committee (chaired by Professor Louise Signal) and the National Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (chaired by Nick Dangerfield).



The Cancer Society is in very good heart after 92 years of service to cancer patients and their families throughout New Zealand and we are well-positioned to continue the great work that the visionaries of the past have entrusted to us.

Finally, I have greatly enjoyed visiting each of the Divisions during the past 12 months and look forward to continuing to meet many of the wonderful people who so generously serve our Society as we carry out our goal of reducing the impact and incidents of cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Ngā Manaakitanga,
Alister Argyle
CSNZ President

A message from our CEO



We started this financial year with New Zealand in Level 4 COVID lockdown and substantial uncertainty. COVID-19 impacts on the Cancer Society were acute, immediate and significant - the demand for our services went up, the operational complexity and uncertainties increased, our fundraised revenue sharply declined. Looking back, I am both immensely proud of all the Cancer Society achieved and hugely grateful to everyone that made this possible.



Across the motu our staff focused on providing essential services to their communities and providing new information and services to address emerging COVID needs. We made some significant changes to services at rapid speed, particularly at our lodges, where cancer patients continue to stay with us and be supported by us during their treatments at all COVID levels.

I extend a huge, heartfelt thank you to our staff and volunteers who consistently focused on the needs of cancer patients and also supported each other; thank you to our donors and supporters who helped us during this tough year; thank you to our partners who adapted to new ways of working with us; and thank you to our colleagues in the broader health system for going above and beyond. I wish to particularly acknowledge the Cancer Society of New Zealand management team for the support you provided each other (and me) during the year and for your remarkable agility.

The Cancer Society as collective Federation supported each other, and I couldn't have got through the year without the support of the Chief Executives of each of the six Cancer Society Divisions and their teams. Thank you.

***Ki te kotahi te kākaho, ka whati
Ki te kāpuia, e kore e whati
Alone we are vulnerable
Together we are strong***

The Cancer Society approved in February 2020 a new Strategic Plan and Equity Charter, and this financial year was the first full financial year of progress against these foundational documents. While COVID somewhat derailed the plans, the year confirmed the importance and relevance of our strategic goals and the need to focus on addressing cancer inequities. Despite the uncertainties, I'm pleased to report that the Cancer Society as a collective achieved significant progress towards both our Strategic Plan and Equity Charter. A snapshot of some key highlights and activities from across New Zealand are presented in this report, although the accompanying Annual Financial Statements reflect the operations of Cancer Society of New Zealand Incorporated and Daffodil Enterprises Limited only.

Shortly before holding our Annual General Meeting and presenting this report to our members, the country once again went sharply into lockdown due to community transmission of COVID-19. The process of the Cancer Society quickly adjusting our annual Daffodil Day street appeal to an online appeal, and once again making rapid changes to our services and operations to support cancer patients through this time clearly showed how far we've come in the past year.

Cancer doesn't stop for COVID-19, and we won't stop either.

Nga mihi nui,
Lucy Elwood
Chief Executive

A message from our Medical Director



This past year has been - unprecedented.

The amount of change in cancer has been unparalleled. Cervical cancer screening has been funded to shift to HPV testing, the IT infrastructure behind screening is getting a revamp to broaden its reach, greater restrictions on tobacco supply have been announced, there is a review into PHARMAC, and the whole health system will be restructured to eliminate the postcode lottery (a debate which I would argue the Cancer Society started).

With COVID and the lockdown, Cancer Society staff and volunteers responded in the most incredible ways. We saw the largest shift in the shortest time in our services, maintained most services, and pivoted to new delivery models. In addition, we led the debate on non-COVID cancer casualties to make sure that a focus on COVID didn't mean that people with cancer were left in the cold, which has happened in other countries.

We have worked hand-in-glove with Te Aho o Te Kahu, the Government's Cancer Control Agency, on many projects. I have been overwhelmed by Te Aho's progress in its first year, particularly on the quality of care through the Quality Performance Indicators work, and on reducing inequity of outcomes for Māori. None of this was happening before our campaign for strong central leadership, a national cancer plan, an end to the postcode lottery, and a national cancer agency. It is not bravado to say we have changed the course of cancer care in New Zealand.

This year, I am stepping down as Medical Director after having the best six years of my professional life in this role. I can do so knowing how much we have achieved together as a Society over that time. I know that the power of the Cancer Society is in its coherence, collaboration, commitment to a strong evidence-based approach, its compassion and connection to the community.

We have shown that when we stand together, when we stand up, and when we show the right way forward, we can achieve truly transformational change that will echo for a generation to come. Dr Kate Gregory and Dr George Laking will take over and will bring new voices and new directions to the role of Medical Director, and I am proud to pass on the mantle to such competent and capable professionals.

The strength of our Cancer Society is in our collective. When we work together with the interests of all New Zealanders at our heart, informed by science and motivated by compassion, and bound together by a commitment to working together, we are a powerful force for positive change.

Thank you for trusting me to be the public voice of the Cancer Society for the past six years. It has been the honour and privilege of my life.

Kia kaha.

Dr Chris Jackson

*@drkiwiCJ, former Cancer Society Medical Director
Member, Cancer Society of NZ*



COVID-19
Mate Korona

Like many charities, the impact of COVID-19 resulted in a challenging 12 months. After the initial lockdown, we quickly adapted how we worked to provide support for those affected by cancer



Our response to COVID

Despite various lockdowns, we have ensured our services have remained available, including:

- Throughout COVID alert Levels 3 and 4, our staff regularly reached out to people affected by cancer for well-being checks.
- We maintained our core services such as driving and accommodation active. We followed the Ministry of Health guidelines and implemented strict infection control measures to provide a safe environment for patients and their whānau. When needed, we redeployed our staff to provide driving services.
- We extended our 0800 information line service hours so that people could reach us anytime.
- We provided practical help for whānau, for example, firewood and meals.
- Our psychological services moved online and people affected by cancer could access our free online webinars and sessions.

In addition, we advocated for cancer patients through this period. We worked to ensure that any delays in cancer treatment or screening were raised and addressed. We provided people affected by cancer the latest recommendations on COVID-19 vaccinations during treatment based on overseas experience.

The initial COVID lockdown was a real-life test of Divisional and National Office Business Continuity Plans. It was pleasing that our office-based services could be delivered at home with little disruption. We adapted to the challenges with creative and flexible solutions and moved additional systems to cloud-based solutions. We finished the financial year able to provide more services safely and securely from remote locations, which has been invaluable when worksites have again had to change at little notice.

Funding from the Government

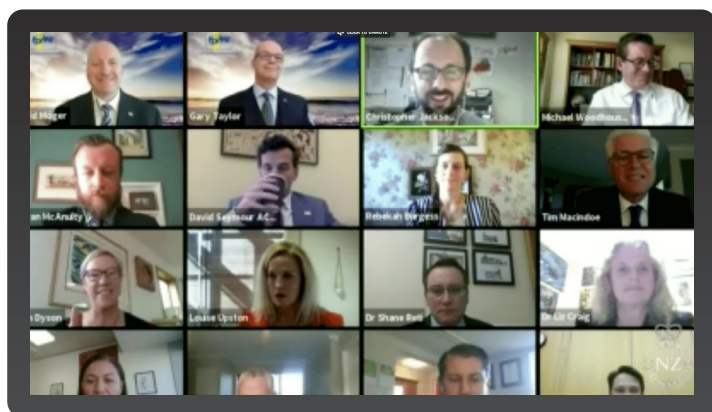
On behalf of the Cancer Society, the National Office made an arrangement with the Ministry of Health to organise services from May 2020 to support vulnerable cancer patients experiencing COVID-19 related psycho-social impacts. We worked with the Divisions, who provided these much-needed services, and assisted them in collating reports to the Ministry.

Early September, the Government announced a one-off funding of \$650,000 to help the Cancer Society continue delivering our essential accommodation and support services at increased COVID alert levels.

Also in 2020, Canterbury/West Coast Division received \$6.5 million funding from the Government for the construction of a fit-for-purpose, 50-bedroom accommodation facility for cancer patients and their families and whānau.



Dr Chris Jackson's briefing to Epidemic Response Committee

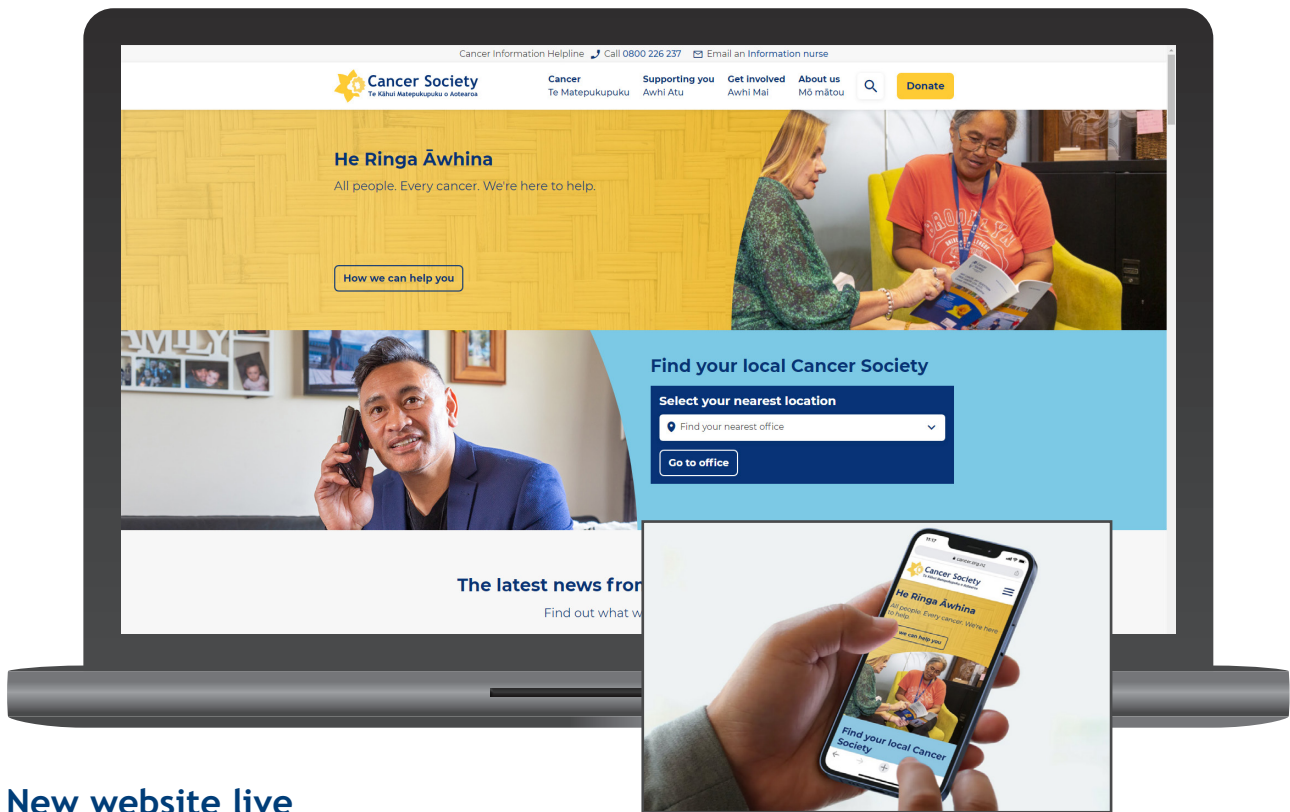


On 6 May 2020, our Medical Director Dr Chris Jackson, [spoke to the Epidemic Response Committee](#). While the lockdown was keeping people with cancer and vulnerable immune systems safe, there were many hardships. Dr Jackson warned the Committee that the health system must catch up or people will face delayed diagnosis, and lives will be lost as a result. He suggested evening and weekend clinics, more scans, and judicious use of the private sector and emphasised the need for additional funding.

Support *Tautoko*



Right across the motu, the Cancer Society is in communities providing supportive care services, including a helpline, counseling, transport and accommodation to individuals and their whānau during their cancer journeys. ▶



New website live

We worked on our new [website](https://cancer.org.nz) (cancer.org.nz) throughout the financial year, which went live early April 2021. With a new look and smarter search features making it easier access to our services, our new website is improving how we support cancer patients and their whānau. It is designed to make it easier than ever for people affected by cancer to take action, quickly access information and generate printable versions of the content.

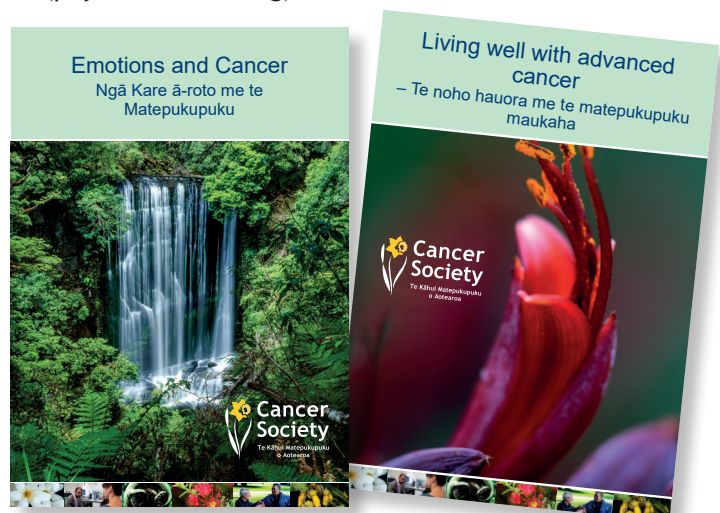
We also launched youcanforcancer.org.nz and relayforlife.org.nz, which provide resources and guidance for the wonderful people in the community who want to get behind our cause and raise money for the Cancer Society.

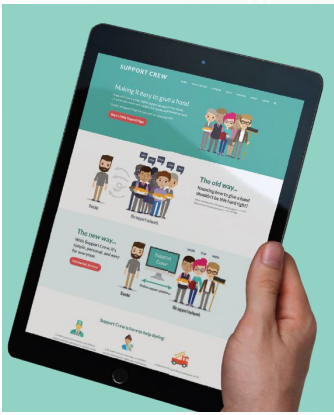
New booklets on *Emotions and Cancer* and *Living Well with Advanced Cancer*

We released a new version of our *Emotions and Cancer* [booklet](#) in July. The booklet includes Sir Mason Durie's Te Whare Tapa Whā model of wellness to explain emotions from a holistic perspective by looking at how cancer can impact taha wairua (spiritual well-being), taha hinengaro (mental and emotional well-being), taha whānau (family well-being) and taha tinana (physical well-being).

Māori and Pasifika people experience a disproportionate burden of cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand, and we hope these new sections will make this resource more relevant, accessible and helpful to cancer patients and their whānau.

We also launched a [new edition](#) of *Living Well with Advanced Cancer*. Speaker, author and television presenter Phil Kerslake was one of the contributors to this book and it has a strong cancer survivor focus.



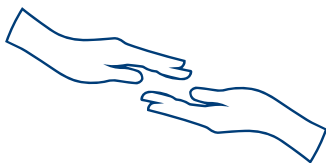


Support Crew

In October 2020, we announced that [Support Crew](#) would be joining Daffodil Enterprise Limited (DEL) a subsidiary of Cancer Society of New Zealand. Support Crew is a free online support platform designed to help anyone dealing with a life event, like cancer, to coordinate help and communicate with friends and whānau.

Kelly Banks and Janine Williams created the platform due to Kelly's experience of managing her partner's cancer diagnosis and organising offers of help while overwhelmed.

Key Stats: Support 2020/2021



8,814

new patient referrals

13,123

face-to-face client contacts



16,735

drives provided

874,572

kilometres driven by
Cancer Society volunteers



49,340

nights stayed in Cancer Society
accommodation



58,763

phone client contacts



14,593

other client contacts, including
mail, email, text and Skype




8,372

Supportive care programme
attendees

Equity Tika



To tackle cancer is to tackle the significant inequities apparent in cancer outcomes and experiences in Aotearoa. The adoption of our new Equity Charter in the 2020/2021 financial year has seen significant change and work started to fulfilling our commitments in this space. 



Tāngata / People

At a leadership level, we welcomed Henare Kani (pictured left) as Te Hau Angiangi to the team and the National Board created the role of Manu Taki (with Keri Milne-Ihimaera subsequently appointed in the 2021/2022 financial year, pictured right).

Also, National Office and Divisional role titles were gifted reo Māori names by Henare Kani.



Partnerships

We built on the good relationship with Hei Āhuru Mōwai, the National Māori Cancer Leadership rōpu. During the COVID-19 lockdown, we included messaging developed by Hei Āhuru Mōwai on our website and shared messaging on other campaigns.



Progress to the Equity Charter

We took part in Māori Language Week and we are putting our [Equity Charter](#) into the things we do every day. Equity Benchmark Indicators were developed and agreed by National Office and Divisions to allow measurement of progress on implementation of the equity goals over time.



Kia ora - E te iwi

During the year, a small team worked on the redevelopment of Kia ora - E te iwi, which concluded with a new format and then training of facilitators (representatives of Cancer Society staff and some Māori providers) at Te Rangimārie Marae, Palmerston North in February.

Following the Kia ora - E te iwi training, a hui of our Māori staff from across the Divisions was also held at the marae, and a new name, Te Rito o Te Harakeke, was adopted for the group. The name was derived from the whakatauki.

Hutia te rito o te harakeke, kei whea te korimako e kō?

Ka rere ki uta, ka rere ki tai.

Kī mai koe ki au, he aha te mea nui i te ao?

Māku e kī atu, He tangata, he tangata, he tangata!

Leadership Wānanga

At the start of March 2021, the management teams of Central Districts, Wellington, and National Office joined together for a one-day Wānanga at Whakarongotai Marae in Waikanae. The day was led by Tau Huirama, Kaumatua with Te Hiringa Hauora/Health Promotion Agency who used the “Three Kete of Knowledge” as a basis for discussing leadership, team building and values we hold.



Prevention Āraitanga



The best time to stop cancer is before it starts. Prevention and early detection are vital to reducing the incidence of cancer in Aotearoa. We implement programs and advocate for policies that support and empower New Zealanders to lead healthier lives by reducing their cancer risk. Around half of all cancers are potentially preventable. ►

Health Promotion Strategic Plan

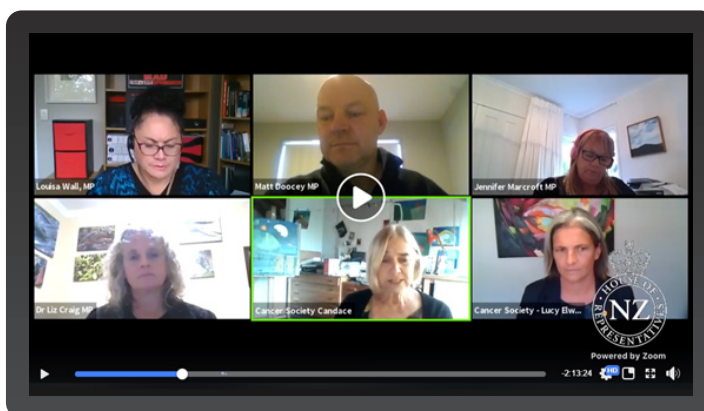
During the year, we developed the Cancer Society's Health Promotion Strategic Plan. Our prevention activities focus on reducing the risk of cancer and, in particular, the key focus areas are Smokefree, healthy diet and weight, alcohol and cancer, SunSmart and screening and early detection.



Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Bill

On 8 April 2020, our Chief Executive Lucy Elwood and Senior Analyst Candace Bagnall presented our [submission](#) on the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Bill via Zoom.

One of the concerns that other submitters had raised to the Select Committee (and particularly the tobacco industry) was that it wouldn't be possible to consult at that time properly and that a delay was needed. The Cancer Society's ability to engage with communities across New Zealand allowed us to provide written submissions from over 200 members of the public in support of the legislation, as well as survey feedback from over 1,400 people on smokefree areas being vape-free. The Select Committee expressed their thanks to us for mobilising the community response on the legislation. Thankfully, the Select Committee also recommended the legislation progress.



We welcomed the new legislation as it aims to help some people quit smoking through vaping. However, our submission highlighted that the draft legislation should be strengthened to better protect young people from becoming addicted to nicotine through vaping. We will continue to advocate for strong Smokefree legislation and policies.

Petition to reduce places that sell tobacco

In March 2021, we launched [a petition](#) asking the Government to pass legislation to significantly reduce the number of tobacco retailers to assist in achieving the goal of a Smokefree Aotearoa in 2025. Work continued into the 2021/2022 financial year with 7,874 signatures collected through Parliament's petition website.



Other advocacy to reduce cancer risk

We also advocated for:

- More shade in public spaces.
- Regulating sunscreen as a therapeutic product. It should be mandatory that sunscreens sold in New Zealand comply with the AS/NZ Sunscreen product standards.
- Lowering the screening age for the Bowel Screening programme to 50 with priority for Māori and Pasifika.
- Replacing the current cervical screening test with HPV primary self-screening.
- Restricting marketing and sponsorship of unhealthy food to children.
- More Government investment into increasing awareness about links between alcohol consumption and cancer.



Engaging with key decision-makers and the wider community is essential to develop support for these topics. Over the year, Cancer Society staff:

- Provided **168** community sessions.
- Attended or supported **123** community events.

SunSmart Schools

The Cancer Society continues to run the SunSmart School programme for years 1-8 students, promoting SunSmart behaviours and ensuring good SunSmart policies are in place. Almost 500 schools were accredited on 31 March 2021, with another 316 schools working towards accreditation.

Position statements

This year, the Cancer Society published new positions statements on:

- [Prostate-specific antigen \(PSA\) testing for prostate cancer](#) (August 2020) - We looked at the potential benefits and harms of PSA tests and provided recommendations for testing and reducing prostate cancer risk.
- [Diet and cancer](#) (July 2020) - We recommended that the Government should prioritise affordable and convenient healthy food access.
- [Alcohol and Cancer](#) (November 2020) - We recommended policies to address alcohol availability, affordability and marketing.
- [Skin Cancer](#) (November 2020) - We provided recommendations on self-examination, screening, and aids to clinical diagnosis of melanoma for clinicians and the general public.

Partnerships

In pursuing policies that will reduce the risk of cancer and advocating for cancer patients, we work with many other non-governmental organisations and groups. This year:

- We joined the Equally Well collaborative by making a formal commitment to achieving physical health equity for people experiencing mental health and addiction issues.
- We continued our membership of Health Coalition Aotearoa (HCA), which aims to “Prevent harm from tobacco, alcohol and unhealthy food.” We are actively involved with the HCA Expert Advisory Groups formed around these issues.
- We joined the Asia and Pacific Alcohol Policy Alliance, a collaborative and learning space on alcohol policy developments. It is a network of non-governmental organisations and individuals committed to developing effective alcohol policy in the region to reduce alcohol-related harm by promoting science-based policies (independent of commercial interests).
- We maintained strong links with our international colleagues. We participated in several Cancer Council Australia committees, including the National Skin Cancer Committee, the National SunSmart and Early Childhood Working Group, and the Tobacco Issues Committee.

Our voice
Kōkiri



We advocate on behalf of all New Zealanders to change laws and policies to reduce cancer risks and improve cancer care. Part of this is to speak about cancer in the media to raise awareness. ▶

Te Aho o Te Kahu

This year, we have been actively building a close working relationship with Te Aho o Te Kahu, the Cancer Control Agency. We engaged with them around how we can work together and how we communicate important information. Three of our team were also seconded to the agency.

We welcomed Te Aho o Te Kahu's release of the *State of Cancer in New Zealand 2020* report in February 2020. The report outlines trends in cancer incidence, survival, and mortality and presents information on how New Zealand is performing regarding key aspects of cancer care. It identifies where issues and inequities exist along the cancer pathway. We were pleased that Cancer Society programmes and research funded by the Cancer Society were recognised in the report.

Lucy Elwood and Di Sarfati, at her pōwhiri for her appointment as Chief Executive of Te Aho o Te Kahu. ►



Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index

We prepared the NZ Tobacco Industry Interference 2020 report, which is part of the Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2020. The index explores how governments respond to tobacco industry interference and protect their public health policies from vested interests as required under the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC). New Zealand ranked 5th out of 57 countries.

Health and Disability System Review

The Cancer Society supported, in general, the proposed changes in the final report of the Health and Disability System Review (released in June 2020). We emphasised that the current health system doesn't always deliver cancer care close to home and that more planning, more accountability and more funding, all part of the review, are needed.

Finally, we highlighted that we would like to see a review of PHARMAC included in these reforms as New Zealand does not have the same access to emerging cancer medicines as other comparable countries.

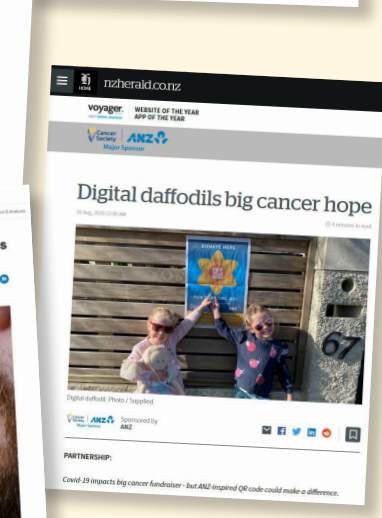
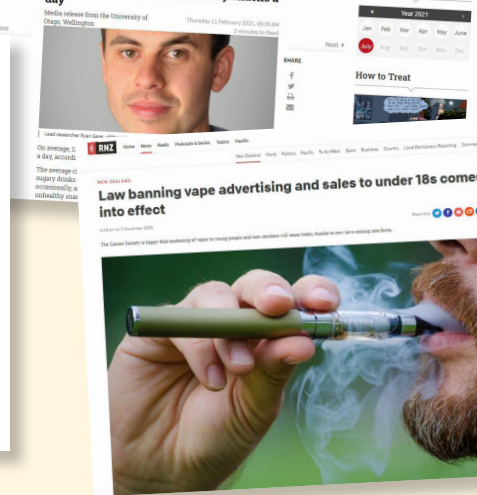
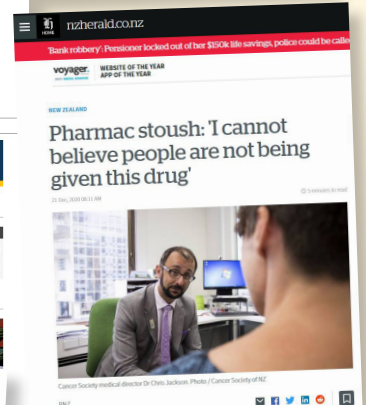
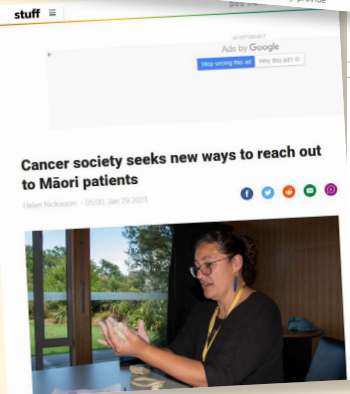
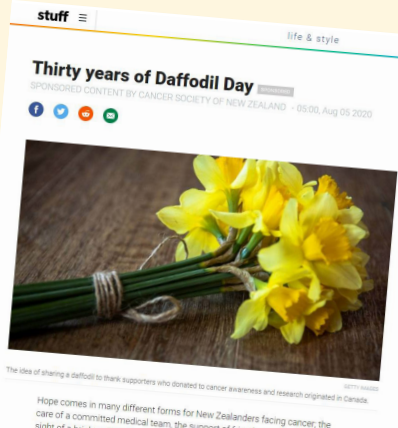
Our submissions

This year, the Cancer Society made submissions to:

- The New Zealand Parliament's Finance and Expenditure Committee on [The Budget Policy Statement 2020](#) (January 2020).
- The WHO on the [Working Document for Development of an Action Plan for the Global Strategy](#) to Reduce Harmful Use of Alcohol (2020).
- The Australia/New Zealand Ministerial Forum on [Food Regulation on the Aspirations for the food regulatory system](#) (January 2021).
- The Front-of-Pack Labelling Secretariat on the [Health Star Rating Calculator and Style Guide and Implementation Plan](#) (October 2020).
- The Front-of-Pack Labelling Secretariat on the [Comments on Implementation Plan for the Health Star Rating \(HSR\) System Changes](#) (June 2020).



Media highlights



Election request

As a member of CANGO (Cancer non-governmental organisations), we met with the health spokespeople of key political parties in the lead-up to the general election. We encouraged political parties to have policies ensuring that New Zealanders have world-class cancer care. Currently, we are falling well short of this goal.

Post-election, we met with the Minister and Associate Ministers of Health to reinforce our key policy asks to reduce the incidence and impact of cancer on all New Zealanders.

ELECTION REQUEST FROM CANGO 2020

Cancer is the leading cause of death in New Zealand. This year, 23,000 New Zealanders will be diagnosed with cancer and 10,000 will die. Whether they live or die, and whether they have a good quality of life, is in the hands of our health leaders. New Zealanders deserve world class cancer care. We are falling well short of this goal.

There has been material progress since the last election in acknowledging the work that is required, including the approval of the Cancer Action Plan and the creation of Te Aho o te Kahu.

But significant issues remain, including those highlighted by the Health and Disability Systems Review, and more is required for our health system to meet Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

There is far more to be done to ensure that New Zealand does not continue to **slip even further down the OECD survivorship rankings**, does not continue to have **vastly inequitable patient experiences and outcomes, particularly for Māori and Pasifika, significantly improves our underfunded and unfair system for accessing medicines, and invests in and further develops its health workforce.**

This election, the impact of COVID-19 is widely felt across New Zealand and worldwide. There are many negatives from the economic hardship in New Zealand that will impact on cancer patients - **vulnerable groups will be hit the hardest and inequities exacerbated**; there'll be **increased psycho-social needs and a backlog through the system** from delayed diagnoses.

However, we also need to bank the gains that COVID-19 has demonstrated, such as the ability to **implement difficult health decisions and system changes at speed, new and improved uses of technology**, the crucial role of **iwi and Māori health providers in engaging Māori** with health prevention and access to treatment, and the vital role of **NGOs complementing the health system and being an essential safety net**. These learnings must lead to long-term system improvements.

About CANGO

CANGO (Cancer Non-Governmental Organisations) is an alliance of prominent New Zealand cancer charities including:

- Breast Cancer Foundation NZ
- Bowel Cancer New Zealand
- Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand
- New Zealand Gynaecological Cancer Foundation
- Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand
- Unicorn Foundation New Zealand
- Melanoma New Zealand
- Lung Foundation New Zealand
- Gut Cancer Foundation
- Cancer Society of New Zealand

The group was formed in 2007 in an effort to increase collaboration among cancer charities.

Chief Executives of member organisations meet quarterly to discuss key issues facing the sector, to meet and share information with representatives from Te Aho o Te Kahu, the Ministry of Health and others working in cancer-related areas; and to work together on specific initiatives that reflect the shared goal of all members to reduce the incidence and impact of cancer on New Zealand and New Zealanders.



Key Stats: Media 2020/2021



1,025,952
website visits



2,803
Cancer Society media mentions



83,723
Facebook page likes

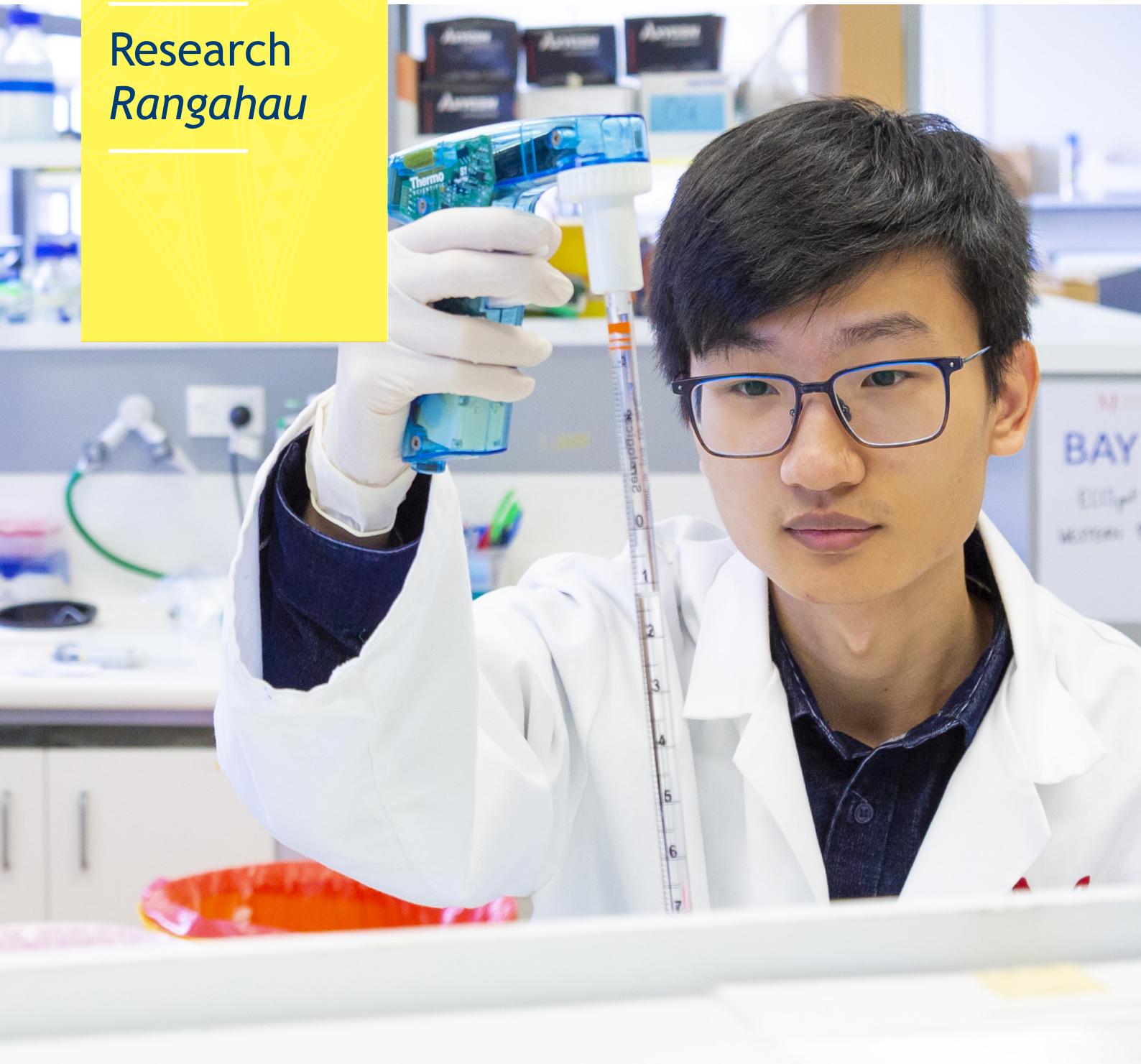


87,227
Facebook page followers



233
YouTube channel subscribers

Research *Rangahau*



The key to stopping cancer is understanding it. Every day, we support world-class researchers, empowering them to push boundaries and unlock the answers to understanding, preventing, and treating cancer. The Cancer Society is the largest private funder of cancer research in New Zealand with 52 million dollars invested over the last 10 years. As a long-term research funder, we can see how Cancer Society research is making a difference. ▶

2020 Grant Round

This year, our National Scientific Advisory Committee, with oncology and public health experts, assessed 41 applications. The 2020 Grant Round progress was impacted by COVID-19 related delays, which was frustrating for the research community, and we thank them for their understanding. As a result of this grant round, the Cancer Society entered into funding agreements for six project grants, one post-doctoral fellowship, and one PhD scholarship.

An overview of the projects:



[Dr Jessica Young](#) received \$199,962 for her research project that explores the experiences of people with life-limiting cancer to understand how best to support them around dying and death.



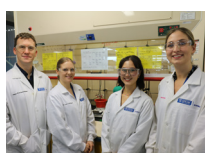
The Cancer Society awarded [Associate Professor Peter Sykes](#) and his team \$20,246 for their research to accurately assess the current impact (and any change in the impact) of HPV vaccination on cervical cell abnormalities in young women in New Zealand.



Population studies have provided strong evidence for a link between adult infection with a common human virus (human cytomegalovirus; HCMV) and increased risk of breast cancer. The Cancer Society's grant of \$197,780 for [Research Associate Professor Margaret Currie](#) will make sure the research in this area can continue.



Despite over 1,300 deaths in New Zealand each year from colorectal cancer, many treatment options offer poor survival benefits. [Professor Sarah Hook](#) was awarded \$109,683 for a clinical trial of an immunotherapy vaccine in colorectal cancer patients undergoing surgery for their primary cancers.



\$150,000 went to [Professor David Barker](#) for his research project to develop better drugs that target TDP1, an enzyme that reduces the effectiveness of chemotherapy drugs to provide new, more effective chemotherapeutic treatment options.



[Douglas Garkarth](#) received \$97,500 for his research to identify which bacteria and bacterial products offer the most significant protection to patients to boost anti-tumour immunity and improve treatment outcomes to immunotherapy.



[Professor Antonia Lyons](#) received \$85,948 for her study to gain insights into Midlife drinkers' (40-65 years) views on the alcohol-cancer link. Their perspectives are particularly important to explore because this group has increasing levels of hazardous drinking.



Finally, the Cancer Society awarded [Travis Perera](#) \$79,500. His research aims to use a standard chemotherapy drug called cyclophosphamide in a new way. The trial includes using cyclophosphamide after transplant to see if it is better in preventing graft-versus-host-disease (GVHD) than the current standard of care.

Cancer Society Research Collaboration with the University of Otago: Te Rōpu Rangahau Ō Te Kāhui Matepukpuku

The Cancer Society Research Collaborative has been working hard despite the difficulties presented by COVID-19 over the last year. Some highlights include:

Big Snack

This research has already resulted in several published research papers. It found Kiwi kids consume, on average, five unhealthy snacks a day. For every healthy snack consumed, children ate 2.5 unhealthy snacks. This is concerning as unhealthy snacks contribute to obesity and an increased risk of some cancers. Policies promoting a healthy diet and weight will be vital to reducing the cancer risk of New Zealanders. Research like this provides strong evidence supporting the need for new policies around matters such as unhealthy food marketing to children.

Promoting health equity in bowel cancer screening

Screening programmes often fail to deliver equitably, with Māori and Pacific participation lower compared to NZ Europeans. Researchers talked with Māori and Pacific communities and Māori and Pacific health experts to better understand why. This project aimed to improve equity in bowel screening. Findings will be available in late 2021



Bar atmospherics and smoking: A qualitative analysis of young adult smokers

Young people often commence smoking when socialising and consuming alcohol. Despite Smokefree laws preventing it in indoor settings, smoking in outdoor bar settings continues, resulting in the normalisation of smoking. This research provided rich insights into larger-scale studies and highlighted the need for smokefree restrictions to extend well beyond indoor bar environments.

International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership (ICBP)

We continued our involvement in this work as the New Zealand partner. [ICBP](#) produces high quality research to help identify best international practice, and published 7 papers during the year.

Key Stats: Research 2020/2021



41

applications received
in the 2020 Grant Round

8

applications approved
in the 2020 Grant Round



\$5,200,000

spent on research

13.5%

of total Cancer Society
expenses for financial year

Fundraising



Funds raised through events, like Daffodil Day and Relay For Life, allow us to continue our support services, health promotion programmes and life-saving cancer research. We particularly want to acknowledge our sponsors and partners (including our major sponsor ANZ), those who provided us a legacy gift in their wills, those who supported us with grants, and everyone who fundraised for us. Thank you to everyone who supported us. ▶

30 years of Daffodil Day

Since 1990, Daffodil Day has inspired people to come together and support the Cancer Society's work and provide an opportunity to raise awareness around cancer and in Aotearoa. ANZ is the major sponsor of Daffodil Day. Without the support of ANZ, countless volunteers, and the generosity of New Zealanders, we would not be able to continue being there for those affected by cancer.

Our 30th anniversary Daffodil Day looked different from previous years. While the day was more important than ever and crucial to raising funds and awareness, lockdown meant a street appeal was not possible in Auckland. In addition, the rest of the country practiced safe distancing, meaning there were fewer collection sites than usual.

We were heartened that the community rallied behind Daffodil Day and embraced new ways to support the Cancer Society through, for example, the ANZ digital daffodil, which included ANZ's generously matching donations up to \$500,000.

It also marked the 30th year of our sponsorship relationship with ANZ - one of the most enduring in New Zealand. We presented 30 stories from those affected by cancer who had turned to the Cancer Society for assistance to mark this occasion.





Relay For Life - it's all about community

Relay for Life is an inspiring community event that gives everyone a chance to celebrate cancer survivors and carers, remember loved ones, and fight back by raising awareness and funds to support the work of the Cancer Society.

Relay For Life events rely on substantial volunteer effort and it was disappointing for the teams working on the events to see some events cancelled or postponed due to COVID restrictions. We improved our digital fundraising platforms during the year and many donors provided online financial support for cancelled events. Still, we missed the opportunity to connect within our communities and look forward to holding these events in Level 1 conditions in the future.



Key achievements this year:

- 15 relays across the country
- 700 teams with 9000 participants
- \$1,900,000 (excluding sponsorship) raised

Finances

Ahumoni

The audited financial statements of Cancer Society of New Zealand Inc (consolidated with its subsidiary company Daffodil Enterprises Limited) [can be found here](#).

These statements do not present the results or position of the whole Cancer Society Federation. While the activities of the Cancer Society presented in this report include activities of the Cancer Society of New Zealand Incorporated, the six Cancer Society Divisions, plus Cancer Society centres and other entities that make up the Cancer Society throughout New Zealand, the results and financial positions of Divisions and Centres may be inspected through their Annual Reports or via Charities Services.

The 2020/2021 financial year was challenging for the Cancer Society. The operational challenges of COVID-19 meant that operating plans in all parts of the Federation were disrupted. Cancer doesn't stop for COVID-19, and the work of the Cancer Society can't stop either. Through effective financial management, the deferral of a number of key projects and the continued generosity of our supporters, the Cancer Society of New Zealand Inc finished the financial year in a sound financial position.

The Cancer Society is a federation consisting of six regions with 34 centres and a national office in Wellington. This map shows where centres are located.



Our People *He Tangata*



Our Board

We welcomed our new President **Alister Argyle** at the 2020 AGM and farewelled Peter Hutchison, the outgoing President. Alister is the Senior Partner in an Ashburton law firm and is also a Notary Public who has served on our Board for a number of years.

We were also pleased to welcome **Corey Hebbard** to the National Board in June 2020 as the Wellington Division representative (replacing Kate Morrison), **Candace Kinser** as the Auckland Northland Divisional representative (replacing Dr Jonathan Koea) and **Kate Reid** as the Canterbury-West Coast Divisional representative.

The Board of Cancer Society of New Zealand at the time of writing this report is:

Alister Argyle
(President)

Candace Kinser

Corey Hebbard

Chris Staynes

Dr Garry Forgeson

Kate Reid

Maurice Gianotti

Dr Kate Gregory
(Medical Director)

Dr Keri Milne-Ihimaera
(Manu Taki)

Nick Dangerfield
(Chair - National Finance, Audit and Risk Advisory Committee)

Our staff and volunteers

It was a significant year for our staff and volunteers across the motu. Thanks to our staff and volunteers, the Cancer Society is anchored in our communities providing services across Aotearoa.

Key Stats: People 2020/2021



4,539
registered volunteers

77,284
volunteer hours



320
paid staff

249.36
FTEs (paid staff)



1,240
volunteer drivers



Annual Report of the Cancer Society of New Zealand Inc,
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