



Hei
Āhuru
Mōwai

Māori Cancer
Leadership
Aotearoa

Māori Cancer Researcher Awards 2023

PhD Scholarships

Application Guidelines

Applications Close
12 pm Friday 29 September

Submit by emailing a completed application form in PDF
format to:

research@cancer.org.nz

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1. Introduction

1.1 Scholarship Round Purpose

The aim of the Cancer Society's Annual National Research Grant Round is to fund high-quality research across the cancer continuum (including hauora, mātauranga Māori, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and supportive care). This joint scholarship round between Cancer Society and Hei Āhuru Mōwai is for PhD scholarships for Māori involved in Cancer Research.

1.2 About the Cancer Society of New Zealand

The Cancer Society's mission is to improve community wellbeing by reducing the incidence and impact of cancer. Our activities include:

- Supporting and funding research within New Zealand across the cancer continuum.
- Providing supportive care and information to people affected by cancer, their families/whānau and carers.
- Promoting education about cancer for health professionals and publicising progress made in research and treatment.
- Delivering health promotion programmes focusing on cancer prevention.
- Leading advocacy across the cancer continuum.
- Working collaboratively with organisations who share similar goals to the Cancer Society.

The Cancer Society receives no direct government funding and is reliant on funding support from the communities in which it works.

The Cancer Society is committed to equity and has an equity charter that guides all of our mahi. To read our equity charter please go to; <https://www.cancer.org.nz/about-us/who-we-are/equity-charter/>

You can contact the Cancer Society's National Advisor: Research Programme & Policy (Dr. Nicole Stanton) with any questions during the grant application process at research@cancer.org.nz or 021 915 975.

1.3 About Hei Āhuru Mōwai

Hei Āhuru Mōwai Māori Cancer Leadership Aotearoa is a national network of Māori cancer professionals, clinicians, researchers and whānau who are committed to Rangatiratanga in cancer control, eliminating cancer inequities between Māori and non-Māori and advocating for better outcomes for whānau.

Our specialties include; general medicine, public health, onco-surgery, oncology, mauri healing, health promotion, haematology, gastroenterology, hauora Māori research, radiation therapy, genomics, and epidemiology.

Our vision is for mana-enhancing, ora-enabling, mauri-restoring, wairua-protective and whānau-centered cancer control.

Our activities include:

- Rangatiratanga - Promoting and affirming Rangatiratanga in cancer control
- Māngai - Leading Māori advocacy in cancer control
- Mātauranga - Providing Māori cancer and equity expertise in cancer control
- Wānanga - Influencing research to provide better outcomes for whanau
- Āhuru - Providing a safe space for Māori cancer kaimahi to connect, collaborate and create.

You can contact us during the grant application process at rangahau@heiahurumowai.org.nz

2. Scope

Cancer Society and Hei Āhuru Mōwai are committed to equity. This grant round will consider applications that are relevant to Māori cancer outcomes across the continuum.

Applications peripheral to cancer/matepukupuku should not be submitted.

3. Eligibility

These Māori career development awards are for individuals who are committed to hauora Māori, maximising Māori health gains, addressing existing cancer inequities, and/or fostering Māori health aspirations. We value applications that include kaupapa Māori and mātauranga Māori.

To be eligible you must:

- Be of Māori descent
- Be resident in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Have academic supervision which includes at least one Māori supervisor
 - Those unable to identify a Māori supervisor are encouraged to get in touch prior to applying.
- Intend to enrol or already be enrolled in a PhD. Those who have not yet enrolled for their proposed course of study but are intending to do so may apply for this scholarship. In this case any award will be conditional on the applicant's successful enrolment in a PhD at a New Zealand Wānanga or University.

4. Grant Details

Description	Maximum value of award	Maximum grant duration
PhD scholarships provide funding for students to undertake advanced research in the field of cancer, leading to a Doctorate in Philosophy from a New Zealand Wānanga or University.	\$40,000 per annum stipend \$10,000 per annum for university fees \$10,000 across the duration of the award as a tikanga allowance	36 months FTE

- Applicants should fill in the 2023 Application Form found on our [website](#).
- Priority will be given to applications in areas where grant opportunities are limited (for example, mātauranga Māori, nursing, allied health care).
- Applicants should include a letter of support from their supervisor, clear detail about the research or training environment, and include additional letters of support as appropriate. We encourage supervisors and hosting institutions to read the [Āhuru Ākonga recommendations](#) for looking after emerging Māori cancer researchers. These are available under the Research Awards tab on the [Hei Āhuru Mōwai website](#) or from the link above.
- Part-time students are welcome to enrol, noting that for such students the scholarship would be pro-rated. The award will not be granted for a period longer than the equivalent of three years fulltime.

5. Application process and timelines

All grants will be awarded in a competitive process, for all individuals who meet the above eligibility criteria to apply for funding. Applications will be assessed by the Māori Cancer Researcher Awards Assessment Committee (MCRAAC), who will also make the final funding decision.

To help us plan this year's scholarships, we are requesting that all who intend to apply fill out the registration form on our [website](#). If you intend on applying, please fill this out before **1 September 2023**. If you miss this date, please contact research@cancer.org.nz.

Applications will be assessed through several stages:

Task	Date
Registrations open	17 July 2023
Applications open	17 July 2023
Registrations close	1 September 2023
Applications close	29 September 2023
MCRAAC Meeting	October 2023
Liaising with applicants as needed	Late October/Early November 2023
Acceptance letters and contracts sent to	December 2023

successful applicants	
Contracts returned	January 2024

Applications made in te reo Māori must be accompanied with a translation into English.

The Cancer Society and Hei Āhuru Mōwai may refuse to consider an application if it considers actions of the applicant to be contrary to the values and interests of the Cancer Society and Hei Āhuru Mōwai or may bring the Cancer Society and/or Hei Āhuru Mōwai into disrepute.

5.1 Submission

The 2023 Application Form (available on our [website](#)) should be completed and submitted electronically as a PDF to research@cancer.org.nz by **12 noon on 29th September 2023**.

5.2 Reporting

Applicants successful in receiving funding through this unique Grant Round will be required to submit annual progress reports and a final report. Funding for each subsequent year will only be released upon receipt of a satisfactory annual report. At year 2, in addition to the student's report, the supervisor must submit a report on the student's progress.

Reports will include a lay person's summary which may be used to inform the public about the work we support, an update on the project's timelines and milestones; whether they are met, partially met, or delayed, and an

explanation for any delays. The Cancer Society and Hei Āhuru Mōwai recommends writing lay summaries at the **reading age of twelve years old**. Annual reports in Te Reo Māori must also provide the English translation.

5.3 Privacy provisions

The information requested in an application will be used for assessing that application and, in a non-identifiable form, some information will be used for Cancer Society statistical purposes. All research applications will be stored in a secure place. Security and confidentiality will be preserved for any application declined. Personal information contained in the application may be made available to external referees and members of Hei Āhuru Mōwai, and Cancer Society National Scientific Advisory Committee reviewing the application, including electronic and paper copies of the application. When an application is successful, the Cancer Society and Hei Āhuru Mōwai reserves the right to publish the applicants' names, details of the Host Institution, lay summary and funding awarded. You can find the Cancer Society's privacy policy online [here](#).

6. Applicant information

- **Whanaungatanga – relationship to research:** tell us about how you came to this project- we want to know your story of how/why/when this research question called to you. You can include wairuatanga, tohu, ōhaki or any other tikanga Māori to describe this.
- **Ngā hua – other outcomes of receiving this scholarship:** what would

getting this scholarship mean to you and your whānau? We would like to know what other hua/outcomes this scholarship could provide for you.

7. Assessment criteria

All applicants should demonstrate that their research project meets the following parameters:

- **Mana taurite me te tino rangatiratanga - Significance of the project to Equity, improved Māori cancer outcomes, and tino rangatiratanga:** addresses important mātauranga/research questions, likely to result in significant benefit for tangata and whānau affected by cancer or advancement in the understanding of cancer. Contribution to increased knowledge, health, social and/or economic gains, appropriate pathway for knowledge transfer and responsiveness to Māori.
- **Māori community links, health background and potential:** involvement in Māori communities, has good knowledge of the health sector, and is committed to pursuing Māori cancer research.
- **Nohoanga - Research environment:** choice of supervisor. Qualifications, experience and knowledge in the proposed research area, right mix of expertise including Māori data sovereignty, appropriate networks and collaborations, history of productivity and delivery, and supportive research environment. This includes kuia and kaumatua.
- **Ngā pēwheatanga - Research design:** clear objectives and deliverables and appropriate research design.

- **Academic ability of the applicant:** applicant qualifies to enrol in a PhD degree.
- **Significance/ contribution to the goals of Hei Āhuru Mōwai and the Cancer Society:** the expected outcomes of the proposed research will add value and contribute to the goals of the [Cancer Society](#) and [Hei Āhuru Mōwai](#).

8. Eligible costs

Category	Acceptable Costs (not exhaustive)
Tuition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actual tuition cost as charged by the institution • Students services fee
Tikanga allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wānanga costs • Koha for kaitiaki /kuia/kaumatua • Cultural supervision

9. Research ethics approval

General guidelines to applicants:

- It is the responsibility of the Host Institution to evaluate the ethics involved in any research on human or animal experiments or utilizing personal information. However, the Cancer Society wishes to be fully informed on the ethical arrangements covering any work for which it supplies funds.
- The applicant must supply a copy of any submission for ethical approval that is awaiting approval and evidence of approval must be supplied to the Cancer Society before any research procedures involving animal or human materials, or personal information may commence.
- Research ethical approval(s) must come from an accredited Ethics Committee(s). Please refer to the HRC Research Ethics Guidelines for details on how to apply and a list of accredited Ethics Committees - <https://www.hrc.govt.nz/resources/hrc-ethics-committee>
- If appropriate, more than one Ethics Committee approval may be necessary, for example, if the research geographically covers an area serviced by more than one committee or if human and animal studies will be undertaken. All committees applied to for approval should be listed.
- Where a dispute arises over the ethics of experimentation, the Cancer Society reserves the right to refer the matter to the Health Research Council Committee on Ethics and Research for arbitration.

Guidelines for applicants on research involving animals:

- Animals used for research purposes shall be lawfully acquired. They shall be kept and used in strict compliance with the relevant laws and by-laws.
- Any research project involving animals must be approved by a properly

constituted Animal Ethical Advisory Committee, and conform to the guidelines for Institutional Animal Ethics Committees, of the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee.

- An Act of Parliament (October 1984) established the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee, to advise the Minister of Agriculture. Further information on how to apply for Animal Ethics approval can be found here [-http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/overview/national-animal-ethics-advisory-committee/](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/overview/national-animal-ethics-advisory-committee/)

Guidelines for applicants on research involving human subjects:

All research supported by the Cancer Society on human subjects must conform to the code of ethical principles established by the Health Research Council of New Zealand. In addition, research funded by the Cancer Society must conform to the below principles¹:

- The applicant and any other researchers involved must be satisfied by forethought, by study of the literature, and by consultation that the proposed research is likely to contribute to the understanding of the matter being investigated.
- The Investigator must be satisfied that the research on human subjects is based as far as possible on the results of experiments conducted “in vitro” or on animals.
- The Investigator must be satisfied that adequate facilities will be used for the solution of the problem being investigated.
- The Investigator must be satisfied that the research will not impose unreasonable discomfort or hazard upon the subject. In order to ensure the safety of the subject in an untoward event, the Investigator must

¹ Grants may be terminated at any time and without notice should the Cancer Society find that these principles have not been observed.

ensure that appropriately qualified persons are present during experiments and that proper facilities are at hand to ensure the safety of the subject in any emergency.

- The Investigator must modify appropriately or discontinue the research if it becomes apparent that the procedure is likely to cause unreasonable risk to the subject.
- Before the research project is undertaken, the Investigator must obtain the free informed consent of the subject or their guardian in writing and in the presence of a witness. The consent must be obtained without the exertion of pressure on the subject and without being dependent on any obligation of the subject toward the Investigator.
- The Investigator should be satisfied that the subject, or the guardian, has been informed, in terms capable of being understood, of the nature and purpose of the proposed research, the methods to be employed, and the possible risks and discomfort that may be involved.
- Special care must be taken in the case of subjects at particular risk, for example, children, the mentally infirm, the unconscious patient, and pregnant and nursing women. Children should never be the subjects of research which could appropriately be undertaken in adults and, in the case of unconscious patients, the written consent of the next of kin must always be obtained.
- The subject, or the guardian, shall be free at any time to withdraw consent for further participation in the research and must be made aware of Their right in this respect. Such withdrawal does not in any way prejudice the subjects further management and treatment as a patient.
- New therapeutic or experimental procedures which are at the stage of early evaluation and which might have long-term effects should not be undertaken unless full provision has been made for long-term care and

observation of the subject.

10. Contract information and institutional approval

Please ensure the appropriate individuals have signed the application form confirming their support, before it is submitted:

- Applicant
- Supervisor
- Head of Department
- Authorised official on behalf of the Host Institution - The Host Institution is the Wānanga, University, Hospital, or other institution which undertakes to provide facilities and accept overall responsibility for the conduct of the research and the administration of grant funds. The official authorised to sign for the Host Institution will be a matter for decision by that Institution. In the case of a University employed applicant carrying out research on University property, the Vice-Chancellor or their nominee would normally sign. Where the research is to be carried out in a hospital, the Chief Executive, or General Manager of the Company would normally sign for the Host Institution.

Successful applicants will be asked to sign a research contract. The 2022 research contract template is available [here](#).

When a matter relating to research arises and the Cancer Society does not have a stated policy the Cancer Society may follow any existing guidelines of the Health Research Council.