



2024/2025  
*Annual Report*

*Thank you for your  
amazing support this year.*



**Cancer  
Society**

Te Kāhui Matepukupuku  
o Aotearoa

Cancer Society Auckland Northland





**CANDACE KINSER**  
Chair and President  
Cancer Society Auckland Northland

# President's Report

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This is my fifth annual report as President, and it offers a moment to reflect on what we've achieved and where we are heading. Over the past five years, I have watched the Cancer Society Auckland Northland grow stronger in its mission to reduce the incidence and impact of cancer across our communities.

We continue to fund a wide range of critical research, expand our services into more regions, and hear from patients and families whose lives have been made more bearable because of the support they receive. That feedback motivates me every day. It reinforces why we do this work and why we must keep reaching further.

At the heart of our organisation is a simple commitment: no one should face cancer alone. That promise is brought to life every day through the services we provide, the volunteers who give so generously of their time, and the donors whose contributions make it all possible.

One region that continues to face enormous challenges is Te Tai Tokerau Northland. It has the highest cancer diagnosis rate in the country, and among the highest death rates. Despite this, it has historically lacked access to comprehensive, publicly funded cancer care. Every year, thousands of Northlanders must travel to Auckland for life-saving treatment. That journey often lasts weeks and adds unnecessary stress to an already difficult situation.

For over 30 years, the Cancer Society has stepped in to fill the gap, providing free accommodation at Domain Lodge, directly across from Auckland Hospital, and coordinating a network of volunteer drivers who get patients to their appointments. These services are not just helpful, they are essential. Many Northland patients have told us they would have abandoned treatment altogether if not for this support.

We have long advocated for equitable access to cancer care in the region, and now, at last, we are seeing a shift. The Government has committed to installing the first radiation treatment machine at Whangārei Hospital, due to open in 2026. This marks real progress, but it also brings new responsibilities.





**Breaking ground at the new Whangarei Lodge with the CSAN Trustee Board Members.**

Left to Right: Dr Fritha Hanning, Louisa Kraitzick, Sally Hughes, Debbie Evans, Tame Hauraki, Candace Kinser and Dr Ben Lawrence.

Our next critical step is building a Cancer Society accommodation lodge in Whangārei. It will serve patients who still need to travel significant distances for treatment and offer a comforting, accessible place to stay close to care. We have a fundraising goal of \$15 million+ for the initial design and construction phase. Thanks to the generosity of a few Auckland and Northland families, we have already purchased land next to the hospital. The momentum is building!

This project will transform cancer care in the region. It reflects everything we stand for—practical compassion, community-driven solutions, and making sure that geography does not determine the quality of care a person receives. Like Domain Lodge in Auckland, the Whangārei lodge will become a sanctuary for those navigating one of the toughest periods of their lives.

I am proud of what we've accomplished, and I am confident about where we are heading. The Cancer Society is built on purpose and powered by people. Your continued support, generosity, and belief in this mission make all the difference.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are creating lasting impact and giving people hope when they need it most.

**Candace Kinser**  
President & Chair  
Cancer Society Auckland Northland



# AUCKLAND NORTHLAND DIVISIONAL BOARD MEMBERS.



**Candace Kinser**  
Chair



**Julian Grennell**  
Deputy Chair



**Dr Ben Lawrence**



**Tame Hauraki**



**Dr Fritha Fanning**



**Debbie Evans**



**Louisa Kraitzick**



**Sally Hughes**



**Ken Lotu-Liga**

We're thankful for our board members who volunteer their time and expertise to the Cancer Society Auckland Northland, helping us to reduce the incidence and impact of cancer in Aotearoa, New Zealand.



**Cancer Society**

Te Kāhui Matepukupuku o Aotearoa



# CEO's Report



Andrew, Anne and Candace

## ANDREW YOUNG

Chief Executive Officer  
Cancer Society Auckland Northland

During our last Daffodil Day campaign, the Cancer Society got a lot of attention by highlighting the fact that 1 in 3 New Zealanders are diagnosed with this most dreadful disease. Maybe it was this stark statistic that jolted the country, as we had one of the most successful Daffodil Day fundraising results. Thank you if you were part of creating that success – by giving, volunteering or helping us spread the word during our annual appeal.

One person who has helped during countless Daffodil Days is Anne Sinclair, an extraordinary volunteer who has supported the Cancer Society for more than 40 years. Anne received a King's Service Medal in the 2025 New Year's Honours and it was a true privilege for Candace and me to acknowledge her recently for the many voluntary roles she's held – you name it, Anne's done it.

Anne is a shining example of compassion, resilience, and unwavering service. At 90 years young, she continues to be a force for good, offering not just her time, but her heart. Anne's current role, as Domain Lodge volunteer host, sees her providing support to cancer patients during their stay. We all know many patients have to travel for many hours and arrive full of worry about what their treatment will hold across the road at Auckland Hospital.

To have Anne's wrap-around love and attention has touched the hearts of so many. Volunteers like Anne are the soul of our organisation. They bring warmth where there is fear, stability where there is uncertainty and hope where there is hardship.

The King's Service Medal is a fitting tribute, but it is only a small reflection of the immense impact Anne's had. Her legacy is written in the lives she's touched, the friendships she's nurtured and the community she's helped build at the Cancer Society. Anne, thank you—for your kindness, your strength, and your extraordinary example. You remind us all what it means to live a life of purpose and generosity.

Ngā mihi nui and my deep gratitude to all of you who support the Cancer Society in so many ways.

**Andrew Young**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cancer Society Auckland Northland





## ADVANCING LIFE-SAVING RESEARCH: DR. ANNIKA SEDDON'S FIGHT AGAINST AGGRESSIVE BLOOD CANCER.

Dr Annika Seddon is a research fellow at the University of Otago in Christchurch.

Her journey to become a cancer researcher started back in high school biology, when she became fascinated with how cells function and understanding how things go wrong. It's that fascination that led her to study cancer, and earlier this year, she was awarded a three-year post-doctoral fellowship grant for her research focused on acute myeloid leukaemia (AML), a highly aggressive blood cancer that is particularly common in older adults.

*"Acute myeloid leukaemia is a type of blood cancer that starts in the bone marrow, which is responsible for producing all the immune cells in our body.*

*In leukaemia, the bone marrow starts producing large numbers of abnormal white blood cells. These cells are immature and unspecialised, and they flood the bloodstream without being able to perform the essential immune functions we rely on.*

*It's like sending out a battalion of untrained soldiers into a high-stakes mission – they're not equipped to help, and they end up doing more harm than good."*

For older adults in particular, AML is very difficult to treat, and traditional chemotherapy and bone marrow transplants may not be tolerated well by patients. That's why most of Annika's research is focused on improving existing treatments for this patient group. Alongside this research, Annika is also looking at why certain people develop cancer in the first place.





*"Patients come into the clinic and ask, 'why me?', and that's something that has always really fascinated me as well. And so, we are going to look at how malfunctioning mitochondria might contribute to stalling how the white blood cells are produced."*

The Cancer Society is deeply committed to funding innovative, life-changing research. With the support of our generous donors, researchers like Dr. Annika Seddon are advancing vital work that's bringing us closer to better treatments, earlier detection, and improved outcomes for people facing cancer.

**Annika's work could lead to breakthroughs for people facing leukaemia, and is critical to develop more targeted, less toxic therapies. She is one of many Cancer Society-funded researchers working to improve treatment options, extend lives, and give families more time together made possible by the generosity of our donors.**

*"A donation in research today is an investment in a cancer patient's tomorrow. Your donation is what powers the research, that leads to better care, better treatment, better detection, and better outcomes for cancer patients."*



**\$2.6m**

our total investment into  
world-class research in 2024/25

**Your support of Cancer Society  
ensures we are the largest  
funder of cancer research in  
New Zealand. Thank you.**





## CHARLI TIMMS

Northland Regional Manager  
Cancer Society Auckland Northland



We've also seen tangible improvements in our support infrastructure, including the refurbishment of Daffodil House, which continues to serve as a vital community hub for connection, outreach, and support. Our Northland team has grown, increasing our capacity to deliver compassionate, community-based services. Notably, referrals have increased by 25%, reflecting both rising awareness and trust in the support we provide.

As a charity, our ability to serve the people of Te Tai Tokerau (Northland) relies on the generosity and backing of our community. Every partnership, donation, and act of support helps us stand alongside those facing cancer and deliver the care they deserve.

# Northland Update.

This past year has marked a period of exciting growth and progress across our strategic priorities in Te Tai Tokerau (Northland). From strengthening community partnerships to expanding our team and enhancing our facilities, the momentum has been strong and deeply encouraging.

As Candace has mentioned in her President's report, a major milestone has been the advancement of the Northland Lodge project to provide dedicated accommodation. This initiative represents a significant step forward in reshaping the cancer care landscape in Northland, ensuring patients and whānau have access to safe, supportive, and purpose-built facilities close to treatment. The consultation and early design phases have been collaborative and energising, with strong engagement from stakeholders and community groups.







Andrew with Harry and Emma Semenoff at Domain Lodge



The Northland team collecting at a Northland Rugby Union game



Northland Rugby player Matt Moulds

Our partnership with Northland Rugby has been another standout. The 2025 naming of the Cancer Society Northland Taniwha, made possible by the generous support of Harry and Emma Semenoff, has created powerful opportunities to raise awareness and support. The team's commitment to community impact has been inspiring, with many sharing personal connections to cancer.

As we look ahead, I'm excited to continue this mahi with renewed energy and purpose. Thank you to our Board, team, volunteers, and community for your continued support and guidance, it remains invaluable as we work together to reduce the impact of cancer in Northland.

### **Charli Timms**

Northland Regional Manager  
Cancer Society Auckland Northland



# A YEAR OF YOUR IMPACT.



3,674

Total number of referrals made to Cancer Society supportive care workshops, services and programmes.



1,742

Total number of psychosocial support sessions provided for individuals with cancer and their whānau.



29,522

Total number of patient nights provided at Domain Lodge.



58,961

Total number of contacts made by Cancer Society staff to individuals with cancer and their whānau.



3,855

Total number of drives made by Cancer Society volunteer drivers taking patients to and from treatment.



7,043

Total number of face-to-face contacts made by Cancer Society staff.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SERVICES YOU HELP PROVIDE

During the Annual Review, CSAN consistently received top ratings from over 2,000 service user surveys on AskNicely, reflecting our commitment to providing the best possible experience across all Cancer Society services.

Service type	Average Rating (out of 5)
Accommodation (Domain Lodge)	4.74
Driving Service	4.83
Social Work	4.66
Nursing	4.77
Psychology	4.75



**Cancer Society**

Te Kāhui Matepukupuku o Aotearoa

### Accommodation

*"The whole experience at Domain Lodge when you are going through a really hard time is always nice. You are greeted by lovely people. The room was lovely and clean. We feel very lucky and grateful to be able to stay at Domain Lodge"*

### Psychology

*"Amazing, great communication, compassionate and consistent and gave me some really great coping strategies"*

### Nursing

*"I am very grateful to have been supported through this difficult time. It was nice to talk to someone else than family, someone who knows a lot about the patient journey"*

### Social Work

*"Had answers and gave great advice both which helped tremendously at a stressful time"*

### Driving

*"They were easy to talk to, very helpful and were always on time to pick me up for my appointment. Thank you to all the drivers. You made my cancer journey so much easier"*

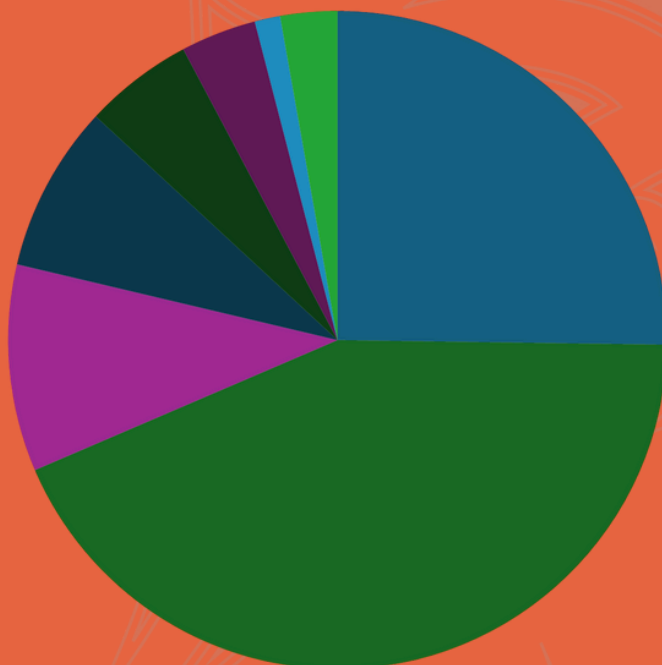


# FINANCIAL SUMMARY.

## \* REVENUE

for year ending 31 March 2025

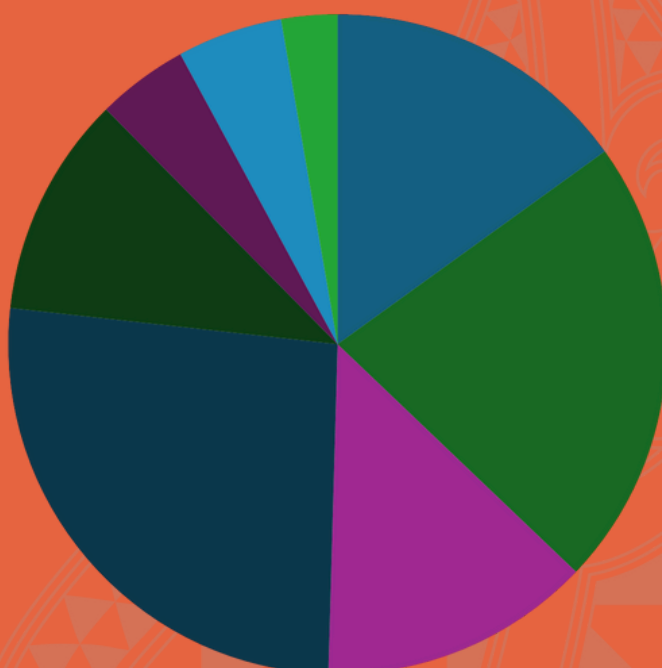
Gifts in Wills	5,726,621
Donations from individuals	9,836,349
Donations to Domain Lodge	2,306,944
Investments	1,859,087
Daffodil Day	1,215,476
Trusts and Foundations	843,236
Accommodation income	283,634
Relay for Life	634,838
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,706,636</b>



## \* EXPENDITURE

for year ending 31 March 2025

Cancer Research	2,644,507
Patient Support	3,869,868
Domain Lodge Accommodation	2,340,729
Fundraising Awareness	4,617,282
Organisation Running Costs	1,904,713
Nationwide Cancer Society Initiatives	785,465
Assets Depreciation	906,851
Cancer Prevention Campaigns	483,060
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,553,476</b>





## JACKIE'S JOURNEY FIGHTING CANCER FOR HER SON ZAC

Jackie was able to receive help thanks to the generosity of our regular giving Signature Programme donors, and those supporters who give cash gifts to our letter appeals

When Jackie received her cancer diagnosis over the phone at work, her world collapsed. "It was like that scene on TV when people's legs collapse underneath them, that's what happened to me."

Jackie was healthy and active. A single mum to 13-year-old Zac, who is non-verbal autistic, Jackie was juggling parenting with a busy life. But when doctors discovered bowel cancer that had already spread to her liver, everything changed.

With surgery not an option, Jackie now undergoes chemotherapy every two weeks, wears a 46-hour pump, and deals with side effects like neuropathy and extreme fatigue. At the same time, she's caring for Zac, keeping his world as stable as possible, even on days when hers is spinning. "I want Zac to see that, I say to him, 'this is mummy's medicine, she's trying to get better.'" Even with a great support system, it's overwhelming. But thanks to the Cancer Society, Jackie doesn't face it alone.

"I've got an incredible support team, including my mum, who used to work at the Cancer Society. I'm also in touch with one of the Cancer Society nurses, Karen, and she's incredible. Going through a cancer diagnosis can be a very scary journey, so knowing that support is available, like the Lodge and nurses it makes a big difference."

The Cancer Society provides free nursing care, counselling, accommodation, and transport to treatment, a lifeline for patients like Jackie. "There have been times I've texted the nurse late at night, going, 'ohh I can't remember if I took this or that,' and just to have that service there... It's really heartwarming."

Jackie finds strength in that support, and in the promise of cancer research that could give her more time with Zac. "I'm not a stat. I'm a person. I'm doing everything I can to beat this."

**Jackie is one of thousands of New Zealanders the Cancer Society supported this year, thanks to the generosity of our donors.** Her story reminds us why our work and your support matters.



Jackie and her son Zac



# “SOMETHING TO SAY THANK YOU” – BEVERLEY’S INCREDIBLE GIFT FOR THE FUTURE

If you would like to find out about how  
you can give the greatest gift, please call  
Anna on 09 308 0247.  
Or email: [legacy@akcansoc.org.nz](mailto:legacy@akcansoc.org.nz)

For Beverley, cancer has been a constant presence in her life. She lost her mum to breast cancer and her husband to melanoma in 2013.

“We went on holiday in 2012... came back and he was diagnosed with cancer. In October that year, he had his stomach, spleen, and oesophagus removed. He died a year later.”  
Just six months after losing her husband, Beverley was diagnosed with breast cancer. She underwent a full mastectomy and was cancer-free for several years.

Then, on her late husband’s birthday in December 2021, she was told the cancer had returned this time in her sternum and spine. “I thought I was having heart attacks... I was shocked, but determined to fight it.”

Beverley began chemotherapy on December 29, enduring eight-hour sessions. Side effects were severe she lost her fingernails and toenails and developed ulcers in her oesophagus, stomach, and intestines.

“It’s not an easy journey. But I’m still here. And I’m still happy.”

The Cancer Society has been a source of comfort, with nurse Naomi regularly checking in.

"The Cancer Society's support has been a valuable part of my journey. Naomi, to check in on me and see if there is anything I may need... It's been lovely. I think it's very good. It gives you a positive feeling that someone's there."



Beverly enjoying the sunset

Beverley’s connection goes deeper, she has chosen to leave a gift in her Will.

“My reason is because of both my mum and husband. I’m passionate about improving research and helping others. It’s not a big amount, but every amount makes a difference.”

Beverley’s generosity is a lasting thank you ensuring future Kiwis facing cancer will find the care, support, and hope they need.





Rebecca, Cheyenne and Jenni at at the Hauora Tamariki Festival in Whangārei

## CANCER PREVENTION & EQUITY TEAM.

Over the past year, the Cancer Prevention & Equity team has focused on strengthening relationships with local communities and Māori and Pasifika health providers to enhance culturally responsive cancer prevention efforts.

A key achievement has been the successful delivery of the Kia ora – E te Iwi programme to four distinct community groups across the region. This programme has provided a space for whānau to kōrero about their cancer journey, offer support and education, empowering whānau with knowledge and tools to reduce cancer risk and engage with screening services. Feedback from participants and providers has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the value of kaupapa Māori approaches and trusted local partnerships.

Our team has developed two Pasifika leadership groups, one in Tamaki Makaurau and one in te Tai Tokerau. Out of this has emerged a growing partnership with Elizabeth Fa'alili from Taime Pasifika Cancer Support. Elizabeth and the Taime team support Pasifika families affected by cancer for the Tamaki Makaurau region and helps to bridge gaps for Pasifika families to confidently access our Cancer Society services.

Our team continue to actively participate in community events, these events provide valuable opportunities to engage directly with diverse communities, raise awareness, and promote our key messages for priority cancer prevention areas. Our team remains committed to equity-driven, community-embedded prevention strategies and looks forward to expanding our reach and impact in the coming year.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

## TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

The Lion Foundation  
Lottery Community Northland Fund  
The North and South Trust  
The Trusts Community Foundation  
The NZ Community Trust  
The Dragon Community Trust  
The Trillian Trust  
Blue Sky Community Trust  
Four Winds Foundation  
Grassroots Trust  
Pub Charity

## PROUDLY MANAGED BY PERPETUAL GUARDIAN

A K Franks Charitable Trust  
Margaret Olive Russell Charitable Trust  
Nessbank Trust  
The Ernest Hyam Davis and  
Ted and Mollie Carr Legacies  
The Room-Simmonds Charitable Trust  
NR and JH Thomson Charitable Trust

## PROUDLY MANAGED BY PUBLIC TRUST

The Reed Charitable Trust  
The Louisa and Patrick Emmett  
Murphy Foundation  
Barbara Florence Gillies Charitable Trust  
Martha Helen Baldwin Trust  
Pauline Gapper Charitable Trust  
The Zelda Roberts Charitable Trust  
Acorn Charitable Trust  
Alison and Andrew Cochrane Trust  
Claire Simpson Charitable Trust

## OTHER SUPPORTERS

The National Assistance Fund  
Foodstuffs Here for NZ  
Z Energy Good in the Hood

## LIFE MEMBERS

Brian Stevenson  
Sabine E Muller  
Edna Johnson  
John Patridge  
Jessica Buddendijk QSM  
Leone Burgess  
Jan M Dalley  
Elaine Black  
Heather Wheeler  
Nola E Cooze  
Michaela Baxter  
Anthony Bacon  
John L Mayo  
Lavinia McMillan  
John Shanks  
Guy H Marks  
Karene Gore  
Stuart Bauld  
Jennifer Thomson  
William A Denny  
Bruce Baguley  
Nigel Brown  
Russell McIlroy  
Carrick L Davidson  
Murray MacCormick  
Michael Horton  
Thomas H Marshall  
Linda F Holloway  
Dale E Siebert  
Knox Laird\*  
Anne Sinclair KSM  
Joan B Swift  
Jonathan Koea  
Patrina Hardie  
Judy Dysart  
Graham Scahill  
Michael Sharp  
Ravinder Parmar  
Olive Shanks  
Peter Shepherd  
Diana Marsh

Moya Barr  
Akshay Desai  
Jatin Patel  
Patricia Noonan  
Maureen Clooney  
Elizabeth C Morgan  
William Wilson  
Arvind Dullabh  
Lorraine Hampton  
Lilian Reid  
Joan Baynham  
Sandi Renell  
Margaret Tubman  
Sharookh Irani  
Kerry Bachler  
Professor J C Probert\*  
Rev. Douglas Kidd\*  
Merv Norman\*  
Marjorie Davidson\*  
Henry Perkins\*  
Enyth Holdgate\*  
Geoffrey Clayworthy MNZM\*  
George Hitchcock OBE, DFC\*  
Gayleen Scahill

\* Deceased

We would also not be able to provide crucial care and support to New Zealanders facing cancer without the kindness, enthusiasm and generosity of our regular monthly givers and also our incredible partners:

## MAJOR SPONSORS

### ANZ

## SUPPORTING PARTNERS

Auckland Radiation  
Oncology  
Giltrap Newmarket  
Canopy Cancer Care





Puoto Lighthouse  
Challenge 2025



Andrew and Grace at  
Auckland Marathon 2024



Andrew with ZM Host,  
Georgia Burke, at the  
NZME & ANZ Donation  
Station for Daffodil Day

# A YEAR IN EVENTS.



Sam van der Werff and her support  
team at Round the Bays 2025



Relay for Life Auckland participants



Bernard, Arron, Lucy and Shane outside  
Takutai Square on Daffodil Day





GKR Karate who raised over \$20,000 for a community fundraiser



Relay for Life Auckland start line



Team Links Alliance Longest Day 2024

Overall, this year has been a successful one in the events space. Not only have crucial funds been raised for those needing support in our communities, but our events showcased our services, informed the public on how we can help, and provided our supporters with a positive and fun experience. We can't thank the wonderful fundraisers and event participants who made this year such a triumph.



Relay for Life Whangārei participants



Northland Daffodil Day collectors



Our most colourful Relay For Life Whangārei participant



**0800 CANCER (226 237)**

**Working towards a future  
free from cancer.**

**[www.cancer.org.nz](http://www.cancer.org.nz)**



**Cancer Society**

Te Kāhui Matepukupuku o Aotearoa

***Thank you.***