

## Clinical Trial Access Project Grant – 2026

### Purpose of the Clinical Trial Access Project Grant

The Clinical Trial Access Project Grant is designed to increase access to clinical trials for people with cancer in New Zealand, by supporting the development, initiation or reach of investigator-initiated clinical trials.

This funding aims to focus on opportunities and address key gaps that limit access to clinical trials, particularly where international study funding does not include New Zealand sites. Grants of up to \$300,000 may be used to:

- Enable the opening of New Zealand sites in investigator-initiated clinical trials where local conduct is not otherwise funded.
- Support pilot or feasibility studies that generate the evidence needed to progress to larger clinical trials.
- Fund planning and development activities necessary to establish protocols, design infrastructure and processes, and validate methodologies that will lead to the launch of a clinical trial.

### Examples of past project grants relevant to clinical trials

Past Cancer Society project grants illustrate the range of activities that have already been supported through this approach. For example:

- [Using chemotherapy after sibling bone marrow transplants to reduce complications](#) (funded in 2020).
  - \$79,500 over 3 years funded the research activities that enabled the opening of this clinical trial at the Wellington hospital site.
- [Clinical trial of an oral colorectal cancer therapeutic vaccine](#) (funded in 2020)
  - \$109,683 for a 12-month project that developed processes and infrastructure to conduct an immunotherapy vaccine clinical trial in colorectal patients.

These investments demonstrate how targeted project funding can strengthen the clinical trials pipeline and increase access to innovative cancer care.

### Concluding remarks

In summary, the Clinical Trial Access Project Grant is intended to enable the conduct of more clinical trials in New Zealand and to improve access for people with cancer. Applications may be submitted for research and development activities at any stage of the clinical trial pathway, provided there is a clear and credible link to the future initiation of a clinical trial. Applications that are closest to implementation, particularly those that are expected to lead directly to the opening of a clinical trial or pilot clinical trial in New Zealand, will be scored more favourably. In other words, the grant is open to a broad range of enabling work, and proposals with a clear, near-term pathway to trial activation will be considered most strongly aligned with the purpose of the grant.