

# Happy New Year to you all.

We hope 2024 is off to a great start for you and you are managing to get out and enjoy our last few weeks of summer.

**2024 marks a new beginning for us as we start the year with the Canterbury West Coast and Otago Southland Cancer Society operating as one. We will be working with our members over the coming months to formalise this and pave the way for a stronger Southern response for families. We are very excited about the opportunities this creates and look forward to sharing more with you soon.**

With the number of cancer diagnoses increasing and set to double in the next ten years, we recognise the significant need to reach and support more of our community than ever before, and the move to operating as one allows us to do this.

By combining forces and resources, we are reducing duplication and strengthening our ability to connect with and serve a greater proportion of our community. As one Southern Cancer Society we will be better equipped to help families navigate the complex challenges that cancer presents, particularly when it comes to them needing to travel out of town for diagnosis and treatment.

The free accommodation we offer at the **Canterbury Cancer Centre** in Christchurch and **Daffodil House** in Dunedin plays a large part in how we support families across the South Island. Without these services many would simply not be able to access cancer treatment and care.

**In its first four months of operation, the Canterbury Cancer Centre has provided accommodation for over 400 families, and is frequently running at full capacity. Across the South Island, thanks to our donors, we now offer 63 nights of free accommodation every day, or 441 nights each week, significantly reducing the financial impact that cancer has on families.**

Our transport service, staffed **100%** by volunteers is also essential for ensuring many of those we support can access treatment. In the last six months our volunteer drivers have delivered over **2,250** drives, supporting more than **300** people who would otherwise not have been able to attend their cancer appointments.

Your continued support to help us keep these essential services available is truly remarkable. We are grateful for the trust you place in us when you make a donation and we take the role of being stewards of your donation seriously, ensuring it gets to the people it was intended for.

We look forward to working alongside you again this year. We have a number of innovative projects in the pipeline that will further improve access to our support and services, and I look forward to sharing updates with you on these throughout the year.

*Thank you once again for your ongoing support.*

## Thanks to our donors we provided

Accommodation for:

**63**  
bed nights daily



**441**  
nights each week

Transport services in the last 6 months:

**2,250**  
volunteer drives



Supporting:



**300**  
People attend treatment






**3,794**  
nights

There are no costs for guests to stay at Canterbury Cancer Centre, however it costs us **\$175** per night to provide this accommodation.

The recently opened **Canterbury Cancer Centre** in Christchurch is our purpose-built cancer support hub providing a wide range of services as well as accommodation for those travelling from outside of Christchurch for cancer treatment.

Since opening in October 2023, the **50-room** centre has provided **3,794** nights for guests from all over the South Island, supporting over **400** guests and their whānau. Over half of the guests have come from Nelson / Marlborough or South Canterbury and the average length of stay is 11 days.



## Transport services

Each cancer journey is unique with its own set of challenges, and for many, those challenges involve the ability to get to cancer treatments and appointments. That's where our team of dedicated volunteer drivers help. Gifting their time and using their own vehicle, our team of over **250** registered volunteer drivers have completed nearly **3,000** drives in the last six months in order to ensure our whānau in need can get to their cancer appointments on time.

In addition to our regular volunteer drive service, we also provide hourly door-to-door shuttles from the Canterbury Cancer Centre to Christchurch Hospital. Also run by a team of volunteer drivers, this service eliminates the stress of parking and ensures our guests can easily access their treatments and appointments.




**1,859**  
nights



There are no costs for guests to stay at Daffodil House, however it costs us **\$120** per night to provide this accommodation.

## Accommodation

**Daffodil House** in Dunedin offers 11 rooms and has been a home away from home for those needing to travel to Dunedin for cancer treatments for the last 35 years.

Since April last year we have welcomed **198** guests to Daffodil House and provided over **1,859** accommodation nights.

## Screening

We advocate strongly for screening programmes in New Zealand, in fact it was one of our top five election asks for the incoming government in the latter half of last year. We are well aware of the fact that screening saves lives, and while we currently have three national screening programmes in New Zealand (cervical, breast and bowel) we would like to see these programmes extended so that everyone in our community has the same level of access to cancer prevention and early detection.

We are urging the government to deliver the following by the end of 2024 to put us in line with other OECD countries:

-  **Fund free cervical screening for 25-69 year olds and help eliminate cervical cancer (one of the most preventable cancers)**
-  **Fully implement bowel screening from 50 years of age for Māori and Pasifika people**
-  **Extend the current breast screening upper age from 69 to 74 years**
-  **Develop a national lung screening programme**



## Your local Cancer Society Accommodation

**Daffodil House Dunedin**  
283 Great King Street, Dunedin North 9016  
P: 03 477 7447 E: [info@cansoc.org.nz](mailto:info@cansoc.org.nz)

**Canterbury Cancer Centre**  
74 Langdons Road, Papanui, Christchurch 8053  
P: 03 379 5835 E: [contact@cancercwc.org.nz](mailto:contact@cancercwc.org.nz)

