

Cancer Society Southern welcomes new CEO



Christine Prince, Chief Executive of Cancer Society Southern Division

We are pleased to introduce our new Chief Executive, Christine Prince, who recently joined Cancer Society Southern. Christine joins us after a decade of leadership with the Canterbury West Coast Air Rescue and New Zealand Flying Doctors Trust. Her work there helped strengthen essential emergency services.

Now, she's bringing that same passion for community wellbeing to a cause that is deeply personal to her: supporting people facing cancer across the Southern region.

Christine's connection to our mission runs far beyond professional experience. She lost her mother to cancer when she was 10, and later her father, both to different forms of leukemia. She understands the lasting impact cancer can have on families.

"Back then, we simply didn't have the services or support available today. I know the ripple effect that had, not just on me and my younger brothers, but on our whole family," she says. "With cancer rates now one in three, and possibly even approaching

one in two, there is such an urgent need to do more. This is a time for us to be bold."

Christine's career spans senior roles in health, tourism and the commercial sector, including St John and Christchurch Canterbury Tourism. These experiences have shaped her understanding of community service, organisational development and sustainable funding.

Originally from northeast England, Christine has lived in Christchurch for more than 20 years after time spent in Europe and South America. Her international experience has helped shape her commitment to equitable access to services and strong community connections.

Cancer Society Southern Board Chair, Amy Adams, said that Christine stood out in a strong field of candidates. Amy noted that Christine's leadership experience, focus on community organisations and commitment to volunteer support will be valuable strengths for Cancer Society Southern.

New pilot to boost cancer outcomes for Pacific communities in Canterbury

Cancer Society Southern and the Tangata Atumotu Trust are excited to announce a new Pacific Cancer Educator/Navigator pilot programme designed to improve cancer outcomes for Pacific communities in Waitaha Canterbury.

Representatives from the two organisations have launched the new partnership and the new 13-month pilot, which aims to reduce barriers to cancer care and increase access to screening and support services through education, outreach and service navigation. The pilot is generously supported by a grant from the NZ Lottery Grants Board.

Craig Watson, Head of Cancer Services, Cancer Society Southern says the partners want to *"really shift the dial"* and provide a model that could be expanded across Aotearoa New Zealand.

"Pacific patients tend to present later, often with more advanced cancers, and we see poorer outcomes as a result. We can't rely on conventional screening patterns or traditional models of care – they simply aren't working well enough for Pacific communities. This new navigator and educator role is a significant step in changing that. By working alongside Tangata Atumotu, we can better align cancer support with Pacific values, beliefs, and ways of accessing care."

Carmen Collie Tuipulotu, Chief Executive of Tangata Atumotu, says the Trust *"see this collaboration as a great opportunity for our two charity organisations to influence one another's practice to support better outcomes for our Pasifika families"*.

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“This collaboration addresses disparities in health outcomes for our Pasifika communities by providing education to improve understanding of cancer prevention and treatment, navigation support to help families access hospital and community resources, and community engagement to raise awareness and encourage screening.”

One specific focus for the pilot will be increasing participation in bowel screening among Pacific communities. New Zealand has one of the highest rates of bowel cancer globally, with the lower South Island having significantly higher rates than elsewhere in the country.

Pacific participation in the National Bowel Screening Programme remains comparatively low in Canterbury (40% compared to 57% for Māori and 64% for non-Māori), with many families facing barriers including language, transport, health literacy, cultural stigma and previous trauma within the health system.

By delivering community-based, culturally grounded cancer education, providing support to help families navigate complex healthcare systems, and strengthening partnerships across the health sector, Cancer Society Southern and Tangata Atumotu aim to improve early detection, remove barriers to care, and ensure Pacific families feel supported through their cancer journey.



We have a growing number of people who choose to donate a regular amount every month, providing a sustainable source of valuable income, enabling us to provide services and support to people with cancer.

We're the sole charity offering cancer navigation services in local communities and as numbers of people diagnosed with cancer continue to increase, the demand for our services is growing.

Our regular giving programme is known as **Southern GEM** (Give Each Month) and is a win-win for both the Cancer Society Southern and our GEM donors. If you are interested in becoming a Southern GEM regular giver, please email gem@southerncancer.org.nz for more information.

A massive thanks to our supporters

It's been a busy and exciting time for our Events team, and we'd like to extend a sincere thank you to our major partners for their incredible support.

Relay For Life Southland / PR Law

Celebrity Netball Christchurch / Harcourts Grenadier

Queenstown Cancer Ball / Naylor Love Central Otago

Relay For Life Dunedin / Mitre 10 Mega

Relay For Life Christchurch / NZCT

Their commitment and collaboration play a vital role in helping us create meaningful events and support people and families affected by cancer across our region.

PRLaw

Harcourts

GRENADIER

Naylor Love

MITRE 10 MEGA

DUNEDIN

nzct
COMMUNITY TRUST

Are you or someone you know going through a cancer journey at the moment?

Get the support and information you need at our Online Support Centre

www.southerncancersupport.org.nz

