



Cancer Society

Te Kāhui Matepukupuku o Aotearoa

Otago Southland Division

Annual Report
2025



Chairperson's Report



Neil Boniface
Chairperson

It's with some sadness but also optimism that I put together some words for the final Cancer Society Otago Southland Annual Report.

As this chapter closes, I see a great future unfolding for us all as we work to streamline our organisation to cope with the increasing demand for our services.

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Our aim is a future free from cancer and to support every person, every cancer as we move towards our goal. ”

”

Our merger with Canterbury-West Coast, to come together under the Cancer Society Southern banner, is the first step to ensure we remain fit and agile well into the future. With rising demand, we knew staying small wasn't sustainable.

As I step down from my role of 20 years as chairman of this amazing organisation, I know this move has created a bold legacy that has shaped the future of cancer care in the south.

I am sad to be leaving the amazing people that have worked with me to create these opportunities but know the future of the Cancer Society in the south is in the best hands.

The merger has allowed us to expand our services, remove duplication, streamline our budgets and focus our efforts on supporting those diagnosed with cancer, educating families and communities on prevention and early detection.

This is essential because we know between 30% and 50% of cancers are preventable.

Of course, another focus is on research, and we held our inaugural conference in Christchurch in March 2025, where we brought together researchers, investors and computational pathologists from around the world to explore latest findings and opportunities.

We are also conscious of the remote and rural areas which are part of Cancer Society Southern's community and have introduced a ground-breaking online portal to allow easier access to information, support groups and our navigator.

It allows far more choice for our clients and greater flexibility.

We are also offering the latest in specialist holistic wellness programmes, through our online Cancer Patient Empowerment Programme.

These and many other initiatives were made possible by fantastic staff and volunteers.

The hours our volunteers contribute is incredible and I can't thank them enough. We couldn't have done it without them.

I thank you all for the work you do to supporting people at one of the most vulnerable times of their life. I wish you well for the future and I will still be a very invested support for you all.

All the best Neil

Foreword from the Chief Executive



Nicola Coom
Chief Executive

He waka eke noa We are all in this together

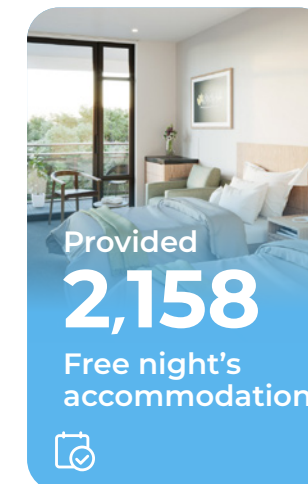
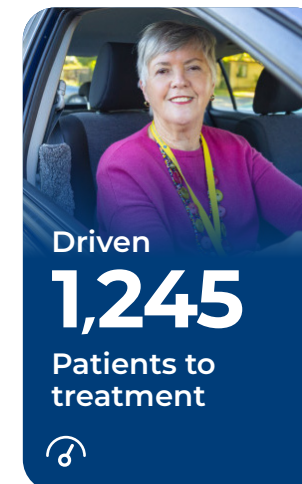
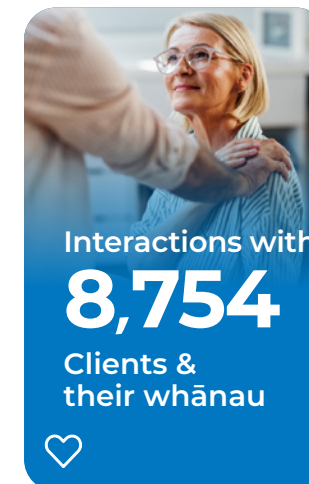
This whakataukī beautifully reflects the spirit of the Cancer Society Canterbury-West Coast and Cancer Society Otago Southland and the journey we've been on to come together and form the Cancer Society Southern. It's been a time of growth, transformation, and deepened connection with our communities.

We are proud to share that we've had a successful year across the three key areas we monitor every week:

- Reaching more families and communities
- Growing our funding base to do more
- Strengthening staff and volunteer engagement

These metrics are more than numbers they represent lives touched, hope offered, and a team that loves the work they do. Our people are at the heart of everything we achieve.

In the last year the Cancer Society Otago and Southland Division has:



The above table is the Summary Statement of Service Performance.

This year also marks a turning point in how we deliver cancer care across the South Island. The merger of our divisions into Cancer Society Southern has already brought tangible benefits: expanded services, reduced duplication, cost savings, and greater consistency. Most importantly, it allows us to better serve our communities.

Families will begin to see more choice in how and where they access support. Our new patient portal is a game changer, offering flexibility and choice to those navigating cancer – when, where and how they want to receive it. We've also added more 'pop up' clinics across the region, ensuring people can stay close to home, we'll come to you.

For our communities, the essence of what we do remains unchanged. Funds raised locally stay local. We continue to provide cancer support via transport, accommodation, education, counselling, therapies, support groups, and cancer navigators – all designed to walk alongside patients and their families.

We've also made significant strides in cancer research, a top priority for Cancer Society Southern. Our inaugural In Pursuit conference in March sparked new collaborations and conversations, helping us move closer to our vision of a future free from cancer.

One of the most exciting developments this year has been the success and growth of Encompass Health. The research is compelling, exercise, nutrition, and counselling improve cancer outcomes. At Encompass Health, families can access this vital pre- and post-cancer support to improve both their outcomes and quality of life. We are incredibly proud of this initiative and deeply grateful to our partner St George's Cancer Care for backing it alongside us. It's truly changing lives.

There were also breakthroughs worth celebrating. The Government's historic \$604 million investment in modern medicines, including up to 26 new cancer treatments, representing the largest

increase in our history. This milestone reflects decades of work by people across the cancer sector, pushing tirelessly for fairer access. It's a huge step forward, but New Zealand still lags behind the OECD in medicine availability, and we won't stop until this changes.

We launched a public campaign to rally support and bring awareness to the fact that if our country chooses to we can eliminate cervical cancer. Watch this space, we're just getting started. It was a powerful moment when Professor Bev Lawton was named New Zealander of the Year for her tireless advocacy for women's health, particularly cervical screening and HPV vaccination. Her leadership inspires us.

None of this would be possible without our incredible staff, volunteers, sponsors, and donors. Your dedication and generosity make life better for so many. From the bottom of my heart – thank you.

A special and heartfelt thank you to ANZ, our partner of 35 years. Your enduring support has helped us reach thousands of families and communities, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to our mission.

To our outgoing board members, your legacy will not be forgotten. And to our new Board Chair, Amy Adams, welcome – we're excited for the future under your leadership.

For all our families, I believe the future is looking bright and together we can create a future free from cancer.

Nicola Coom
Chief Executive

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Reaching out to people who need support and guidance through tough times is one of the best things people can do ”

Relay ambassador honoured to help

Jen Simon is just 32 years old and she's already in the fight of her life battling grade 4 Anaplastic Astrocytoma, a rare form of brain cancer.



Jen Simon, Relay for Life ambassador

After Jen was diagnosed in 2020, she went looking for help and found the Cancer Society a great source of support. So impressed with their efforts, she wanted to help them in the work they do - supporting people diagnosed with cancer and their families.

“I am honoured to be working alongside them as their partner with Relay for Life to celebrate the lives of cancer patients and their caregivers, remember those we have lost, and continue the fight against cancer.

“If we fight together, we are stronger. And Relay for Life is such a fun event.”

Jen lived in Texas until she was 18 and then moved to New Orleans for four years of university. All up she's lived in four countries, but New Zealand is the only place that feels like home. She lives in Otago with her partner of seven years, Doug Barrett.

When her brain cancer was detected, it was already grade 3. Doug was with her, and her parents were waiting for a visa to come to New Zealand.

“This was during COVID so there were a lot of restrictions that caused a lot of stress for my family.”

Jen said what was great about the Cancer Society Otago and Southland, was having a place to spend time with people in similar situations. Even if they didn't hold deep conversations, just sitting in a room with other people battling or surviving cancer made me feel less isolated. Jen still attends the monthly group meeting, crafting, and weekly Unipol gym.

Jen said she became an ambassador for Relay for Life because she wanted to be part of a team that does everything they can to help other people.

“Reaching out to people who need support and guidance through tough times is one of the best things people can do,” she said.

ANZ people powering the cause

The ANZ has been a lifetime partner and friend to the Cancer Society, and it is not just the organisation that supports the cause and their communities across New Zealand, its staff are just as resolute.



The taste of Barnes Wild Bluff Oysters is like no other.



Judy and Graeme

In Invercargill Judy Rogers has been with the ANZ for 36 years (when it was still the National Bank), a year before it partnered with the Cancer Society. She has been the stalwart of fundraising in Southland ever since. And what better way to raise funds to combat cancer than to ride on the back of that sought after Southland commodity Bluff oysters.

"We have been working with Barnes Oysters for 29 years. It was another lady, who still works at the bank too, that came up with the idea.

"We did stop for a couple of years, I don't know if we were just too busy, but I thought this is a good amount of money we can raise for not a lot of effort on our part, because Graeme Wright, (Barnes Oysters manager) and his team do most of the work. We have now done this every year for 25 years."

Judy said each year she calls Graeme to ask what the season was looking like. The harvest can fluctuate because of weather and other factors.

She then goes through the bank's sponsorship team who send out a notice to all branches that the oysters are on sale again. Orders can only be sent to branches and not private homes, because of the courier costs.

"Barnes Oysters pays for the oysters to be couriered all over the country. And they have done that from the start," she said. "Within 24 hours of them leaving the boat, they're at their destination. That's how fresh they are."

Graeme said on a normal year they did around 500,000 dozen. But, because it's a wild industry, there can be some big ups and downs, and some years can be leaner. He has his own reasons for being involved and, of course, downplays the massive contribution he makes.

"Like everyone else we wanted to get behind it (Cancer Society Otago Southland) because it's a good cause. "Like everyone else, I've got three or four people around me at the moment who are undergoing surgery and a couple of them might not make it. You don't have to look far to find it."

Judy said ANZ staff were always enthusiastic for oyster season.

"I really appreciate my regulars who support us every year. Some of our smaller branches can be our biggest supporters. For example, New Plymouth buys nearly the same amount as Albert Street in Auckland.

"And you know, for the past few years we have been in financially challenging times and oysters are something you normally wouldn't go buy; you need to put other things on plate. All the support we get is fantastic. I even have some people who have left the bank who say "Judy, are you having oysters this year?"

As long as they go to branch they can put order in. "On a good year, I reckon we can raise \$12,000 through the oysters. And even when everything else closed down for COVID, the oyster sales continued because they were couriered."



Oysters, of course, are just one of the fundraising activities the ANZ does for the Cancer Society. Pretty much, Judy is thinking up ideas all year. "Oysters are an important part of our fundraising but it's not the only this we do. I mean over the years we've done our quiz nights, barbecues, golf tournaments and bake-offs.

"I wondered if we should do our cake sales this year with the price of butter, but everyone said 'But Judy that's what we love. We can't wait to do it.'

"The rule is everyone has to bring something. If they can't do it, then a grandparent or child can but it has to be homemade. Most of the time, 90% of it is sold before it goes out the door.

"One year I laughed, one guy couldn't bake so he brought Coupland's baking and wrapped it in cellophane. I thought good on you for trying. At least you brought something. 'We can raise \$2000 just from cake stalls. And people bring alone anything. Some make specialty breads like sourdough."

Judy said in Southland they still do the hampers – four every year. Every year all 40 staff members donate \$10 to fill the hampers.

"Depending on what we're doing, we have to start planning way ahead. One year we did a raffle ticket, and I had to get approval from Internal Affairs and the Cancer Society logo use.

"I'm always thinking about what else we can do to fundraise. The staff love supporting the Cancer Society. Everyone knows someone. They really do. They like getting out there and making a difference," Judy said.

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Sometimes people can be a bit anxious and if the doctors fall behind like they can, then they might have a bit of a wait. There’s nothing like a cup of tea and a biscuit and a bit of a chat.
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Living her best life at 89



Maureen Smith (right) offers refreshments to a patient back for a second round of chemotherapy.

The half hour trip from her lifestyle block in the Southland countryside to Invercargill Hospital is no trouble for 89-year-old Maureen Smith who makes the trip every week to support people on their cancer journey.

For 28 years this September, come rain, hail or snow, Maureen has barely missed a day and it's not an activity she intends to stop any time soon.

"I still have my exercise class and other things, but I think visiting the chemotherapy ward will be the last thing I give up. I love doing it. I meet so many wonderful people. I'll do it for as long as I can."

Maureen attends the chemo ward every Tuesday because that's the day the oncologists come down from Dunedin. Her day starts just after 9am. She used to be there until around 4 but her days are a bit shorter now. She might leave by 3pm.

During each visit, she serves the 30 to 40 patients tea or coffee and a biscuit, and she likes to make sure they are comfortable too. Some are patients waiting for their appointments, others undergoing chemotherapy.

"Sometimes people can be a bit anxious and if the doctors fall behind like they can, then they might have a bit of a wait. There's nothing like a cup of tea and a biscuit and a bit of a chat. It can take their minds off things. Sometimes they just want someone to listen to them.

"Some people don't want anything but at least I've offered them something and if people don't want to chat that's okay too. Not everyone likes to talk about it.

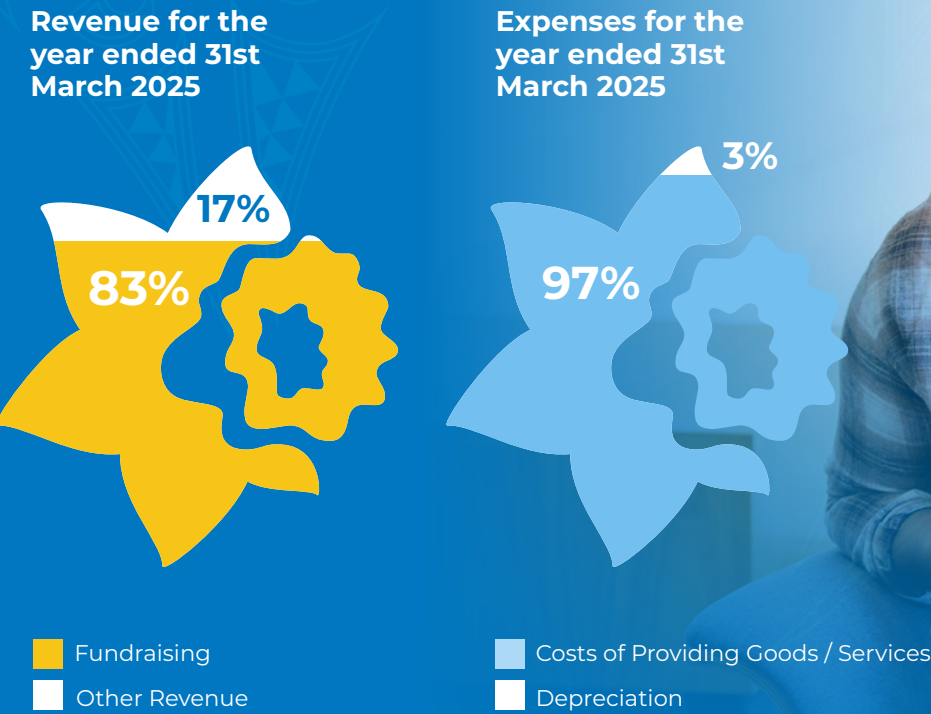
"But I get to meet so many wonderful people. Some of them come in more than once and it's lovely to run into them when I'm out.

"We are seeing more young people. Some are just teenagers. I get so fond of some of them and that's the hard part. Sometimes things don't go right for them. It can be heartbreaking."

She said there's also been some changes to treatments, and she hoped the research into cancer would continue to find new ones to help more people.

Our Finances

Cancer Society New Zealand
Otago and Southland Division Incorporated



Summary Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Fundraising	3,208,662	3,123,629
Other Revenue	659,561	631,983
Total Revenue	3,868,223	3,755,612
Expenses		
Costs of Providing Goods/ Services	2,919,114	3,218,477
Depreciation	98,118	93,523
Total Expenses	3,017,232	3,312,000
Operating Surplus for the year	850,991	443,612
Other Comprehensive Income - Investment (Losses)/Gains	30,123	102,623
Surplus for the year	881,114	546,235

Summary Statement of Changes in Net Assets/ Equity as at 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Opening Equity Balance	6,237,333	5,691,098
Surplus for the year	881,114	546,235
Closing Equity balance	7,118,447	6,237,333
Comprising:		
Property Revaluation Reserve	-	632,141
Shares Revaluation Reserve	-	142,703
General Funds	7,118,447	5,462,489
Total	7,118,447	6,237,333

Summary Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Equity	7,118,447	6,237,333
Represented by:		
Current Assets	2,306,819	3,595,898
Non Current Assets	5,108,130	2,934,434
Total Assets	7,414,949	6,530,332
Current Liabilities	296,502	292,999
Total Liabilities	296,502	292,999
Net Assets	7,118,447	6,237,333

Summary Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	1,054,174	513,113
Net Cash Flow (to) Investing Activities	614,698	(540,099)

Notes to Summary Financial Statements

1. These Summary Financial Statements have been extracted from the full statements which were authorised for issue by the Board on 29 August 2025.

2. The specific disclosures included in these Summary Financial Statements have been extracted from the full Financial Statements for each relevant period.

3. A qualified audit opinion was issued due to limitations in verifying the estimated volunteer hours reported in the Statement of Service Performance, as it was not possible to form an independent opinion on their accuracy. Additionally, as is common with organisations of a similar nature, there are inherent limitations in controls over certain revenue streams—such as donations, Daffodil Day, events, and retail store income (including CanShop)—prior to these funds being banked.

4. The Financial Statements of the Society have been prepared in accordance with the XRB's Tier 3 (NFP) Standard.

5. Cancer Society of New Zealand, Otago and Southland Division Incorporated is a public benefit entity and was incorporated on 25 April 1951.
6. The presentation currency is New Zealand dollars rounded to the nearest dollar.

7. The Summary Financial Statements cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding as provided by the full Financial Statements.

8. The Summary Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with PBE FRS 43 Summary Financial Statements as appropriate for a public benefit entity.

9. The full Financial Statements can be obtained from Charities Services.

10. Events after the reporting date. The Society is in the process of updating its constitution and re-registering under the new Incorporated Societies Act 2023. On 1 April 2025, operations along with all assets and liabilities were transferred at carrying value from the Society to Southern Cancer Society Trust.



Cancer Society

Te Kāhui Matepukupuku o Aotearoa

Otago Southland Division

Our Centres

Otago Centre

283 Great King St, PO Box 6258, Dunedin 9059
P: **03 477 7447**

Central Lakes Centre

1st Floor, Aurum House, Terrace Junction,
1092 Frankton Rd
P: **03 442 4281**

Southland Centre

149 Spey St, PO Box 955, Invercargill, 9840
P: **03 218 4108**

E: contact@southerncancer.org.nz
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