

Wellington Division



**Cancer
Society**

Te Kāhui Matepukupuku
o Aotearoa

2025/26

Cancer Society Wellington Division

Annual Report



Co-Chair and CEO Report

As we reflect on the past year, what stands out most is the extraordinary commitment of the people who make up our Cancer Society community. Every day, across our Division, staff, volunteers, supporters, donors, fundraisers, partners, and advocates are making a tangible and positive difference in the lives of people affected by cancer along with their friends, family and whānau.

The reality is that cancer continues to touch far too many lives. Demand for our services remains high, and for many people the challenges associated with a cancer diagnosis extend well beyond treatment itself. Transport, accommodation, financial pressure, emotional wellbeing, family responsibilities, and navigating a complex health system are all part of the experience for many of the people who turn to us for support.

Over the past year, we have continued the work of strengthening our organisation so we can respond to those needs now and in the future. While much of that work happens behind the scenes, it is critical. We have continued investing in our people, improving systems and processes, strengthening partnerships, and building the capability needed to deliver more high-quality services across Greater Wellington.

One thing that has become increasingly clear is that no single organisation can address the challenges cancer presents on its own. Strong relationships matter. Throughout the year we have continued working alongside health providers, iwi and Māori organisations, community groups, local government, businesses, researchers, and our Cancer Society colleagues across the country to improve outcomes for the people and communities we serve.

We are particularly proud of the progress we have made in strengthening our focus on equity. We know where people live, who they are, and the resources available to them can have a significant impact on their cancer experience and outcomes. While there is still a lot of work to do, we remain committed to listening, learning, collaborating and adapting our services to better meet the needs of those who face the greatest barriers.

The generosity of our communities continues to inspire us. Whether through volunteering, participating in Relay for Life, supporting Daffodil Day, leaving a gift in a Will, making a donation, or simply sharing our messages, thousands of people have chosen to stand alongside us this year.

Their support allows us to continue providing practical help, emotional support, advocacy, prevention programmes, and information services across our region and at no cost to the people we serve.

We would also like to acknowledge our staff and volunteers. The compassion, professionalism, and resilience they bring to their work every day cannot be overstated. Much of what they do happens quietly, often away from public view, but the impact is felt by thousands of individuals and whānau every year.

As we look ahead, we do so from a position of greater strength than we were just a few years ago. The work of recent years has provided a solid foundation for the future, and we are well placed to continue evolving to meet the changing needs of our communities.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our work over the past year. We have indeed been ‘working together towards a future free from cancer’.

Nāku, noa, nā



Megan Ball
Nga Kaihautū Takirua |
Co-Chairperson



Matthew Valentine
Nga Kaihautū Takirua |
Co-Chairperson



Darryl Carpenter
Nga Kaihautū Takirua |
Chief Executive Officer

Cancer Services Report

The 2025/2026 year has been one of significant growth, reflection, and transformation for Cancer Services across Greater Wellington. Our focus has remained firmly on supporting people affected by cancer and their whānau through compassionate, equitable, and responsive services.

This year marked the completion of the formal Cancer Services change process and the beginning of the next phase of our journey: embedding and strengthening a more integrated, sustainable, and equitable operating model that reflects the growing and changing needs of our communities. As part of this work, we successfully recruited two critical roles: a Manaaki Whānau Team Lead and a Community Support Social Worker. These appointments strengthen our ability to support whānau Māori, deepen community relationships, and provide more responsive support for people navigating the emotional, practical, and social impacts of cancer.

Across the region, our teams continued to deliver accommodation, transport to treatment, counselling, nursing support, case management, community support, advocacy, cancer prevention initiatives, and volunteer-led services. We have continued to see increasing demand and complexity in the needs of clients and whānau, alongside growing pressure on health and social systems. In response, our teams have worked collaboratively to ensure people remain connected to care and support.

Equity has remained a key focus. We have continued strengthening our understanding of where barriers exist and how our services can respond through stronger relationships with Māori providers, more culturally responsive practice, improved service data, and community engagement that better reflects local needs.

Advocacy and cancer prevention have also remained priorities. Our teams continue to work with CSNZ to improve access to care and support, particularly where people experience barriers related to transport, cost, geography, or inequitable outcomes. Alongside schools, health providers, councils, and community organisations, we have also promoted cancer prevention initiatives aimed at reducing cancer risk and improving long-term community wellbeing.

We have continued progressing our digital and omnichannel work to create more seamless, accessible, and connected experiences for people seeking support from the Cancer Society.

Our volunteer community remains at the heart of Cancer Services. Volunteer drivers, hub volunteers, accommodation volunteers, and many others continue to provide extraordinary generosity, care, and practical support across the region, and we are deeply grateful for the contribution they make every day.

Looking ahead, our focus will be on embedding the new operating model, strengthening consistency across services, improving data quality and visibility, growing equitable access to support, and building stronger partnerships across the health and community sectors. We will continue strengthening advocacy and prevention activity while ensuring lived experience remains central to service design and delivery. As demand continues to grow, we remain committed to building sustainable, compassionate, and responsive services for our communities.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary commitment of the Cancer Services team. The care, professionalism, flexibility, and compassion shown by staff and volunteers throughout the year has made a meaningful difference to thousands of people and whānau across Greater Wellington.

Nāku, noa, nā



Jenni Drew
Kaiwhakahaere
Matua Rotonga Mate
Pukupuku |
General Manager
Cancer Services



ABOVE: Cancer Society Wellington Division staff at the Hutt Hub opening, 2025.

The establishment of the Hutt Hub reflects the Cancer Society's commitment to providing accessible, community-based support for people and whānau living in the Hutt Valley catchment area. Census data highlights the significant and diverse communities across Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt, including Tangata Whenua, and reinforces the importance of having a local presence that is responsive, welcoming, and connected to community needs.

The Hutt Hub had a wonderful beginning when it was blessed by Kura Moeahu, Chairperson of Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa, based in Waiwhetū, Lower Hutt, on 8 April 2025. The office was officially opened to the public on 15 August 2025 at 20 Pretoria Street, Lower Hutt. Later that week, Chris Bishop MP, Chris Hipkins MP, and Lower Hutt Mayor Ken Laban met with staff as part of the opening celebrations.

Before the Hub officially opened, Jade Conway, Counsellor, had already been providing counselling services in the Hutt Valley for a year, using community-based accommodation to meet client needs. This early work helped establish a strong foundation for a service that is fit for purpose and centred on the needs of clients and whānau.

A key priority has been building meaningful relationships with stakeholders and community partners, including Kōkiri Marae/Tū Ora, the Cancer Support Team at Capital, Coast and Hutt Hospital, Te Omanga Hospice, Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand, Hutt City Council, and other local organisations. These relationships continue to strengthen the Hub's ability to connect clients and whānau with the right support, information, and services.

An acknowledgement to Hayley Horne, Community Support Advisor, who led the establishment of client coffee mornings, Yin Yoga, and the Inter-agency Hutt Hui. The Inter-agency Hutt Hui is held every two months and brings together local services and community groups to share knowledge, strengthen collaboration, and improve support pathways for people affected by cancer.

Since its humble beginnings, the Hub is now led by Charla Onekawa, Team Leader Manaaki Whānau (Hutt Hub) and Kāhui Matepukupuku (Wellington) Division. This role was developed in response to the Cancer Society's Equity Charter, which recognises the need for different approaches and resources to achieve equitable cancer outcomes. Charla's lead supports

stronger engagement with Māori. We are committed to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and application of the Cancer Society Equity Charter when working with priority groups within our hāpori.

This means actively working alongside Māori and other underserved populations to ensure equitable cancer outcomes for everyone. This also involves building meaningful, respectful relationships with whānau, hapū, iwi, and Māori health providers. We focus on enabling equitable access to cancer prevention, screening, treatment, and support services by removing barriers such as cost, transport, language, and system complexity. We are committed to ensuring that our services are culturally appropriate and welcoming, so priority groups feel safe and supported to engage.

We actively safeguard Māori health and wellbeing by addressing inequities and ensuring culturally safe practice. We are also committed to incorporating Tikanga Māori and holistic models of health such as Te Whare Tapa Whā. In practice, this means advocating for fair resource allocation, supporting workforce cultural competence, and continuously reflecting on service delivery to improve outcomes for priority groups. We are committed to ensuring that all people, particularly Māori achieve the best possible cancer care and outcomes to help them reach a state of mauri ora.

The Hutt Hub team includes Jade Conway, Counsellor; Ngaire Lerwill, Senior Cancer Prevention Advisor; Gurnoor Kaur, Fundraising; Jenni Tischler, Cancer



ABOVE: Weekly free yoga is available at our Hutt Hub for people affected by cancer.

Support Nurse; and Gafa Faitotoa, Community Support Social Worker. Together, the team provides a welcoming point of connection for clients, whānau, community partners, and health services across the Hutt Valley.

We acknowledge also Gillian Fry, Team Lead – Community Support, for her ongoing support of the Hutt Hub and for helping guide staff appointed.

The Hutt Hub continues to grow as a place of manaaki, connection, and practical support. Its work reflects a shared commitment to walking alongside people affected by cancer and ensuring that support is accessible, culturally safe, and close to home.

BELOW: Our Hutt Hub team with Glenn, who volunteers his time by running weekly yoga sessions.





Te Puna Aroha – Porirua Hub

Te Puna Aroha, the name gifted to our Porirua Hub by Ngāti Toa Rangatira, continues to grow as a place of support, connection and care for people affected by cancer across the Porirua community.

Over the past three years, we have built strong relationships with local hauora providers and community organisations, working closely with Health New Zealand's Cancer Support Team at Kenepuru Hospital to ensure people with cancer and their whānau can access the support they need.

In June 2025, we moved into our new tari in North City Plaza. The purpose-designed space provides a welcoming, accessible environment where people with cancer and their whānau can connect with our team and access support services. We celebrated the opening with our hauora partners, local dignitaries, clients, donors and supporters. Thanks to generous donations from local artists and the Whitby Women's Institute, the hub has become a warm and valued community space.

Today, Te Puna Aroha offers a full range of Cancer Society services, including community support, counselling, peer support, workshops, practical assistance, resources and information. We continue to strengthen partnerships with Ora Toa, Maraeroa Health Centre, Vaka Atafaga, local food banks and other providers to ensure coordinated support.

This year, we continued our free exercise programme with Te Rauparaha Arena and grant funders, alongside our popular gentle yoga programme, providing accessible wellbeing activities for people with cancer.

Connection remains at the heart of Te Puna Aroha. Our monthly support group regularly attracts more than 15 participants, and its success has led to a new client coffee group launching in Johnsonville. We also hosted facilitation training, MSD presentations, Dying Without Debt workshops and wellbeing sessions delivered by local practitioners.

A significant milestone was establishing the Porirua Cancer Services Rōpū with Te Wāhi Tiaki Tātou, strengthening collaboration between local providers to improve outcomes for people affected by cancer. We also continue supporting Ora Toa's annual Hīkoi Māwhero to raise breast cancer awareness and honour survivors.

One of the most rewarding outcomes has been seeing clients build lasting friendships beyond our services, including a community walking group initiated and led by a client.

At Te Puna Aroha, our approach remains grounded in tino rangatiratanga and person-centred care. We recognise every cancer journey is different and are committed to providing flexible, respectful and compassionate support.

The Porirua Hub team includes Gillian Fry – Team Leader; Lacey Reedy and Stasia Jackson – Community Support; Nora Barraquero – Hub and Volunteer Coordinator; and Viv Hurnen – Counsellor. The hub is also used by members of our wider team, strengthening collaboration and integrated support across the region.

LEFT: The opening of the new Porirua Hub in June 2025.

RIGHT: Ngaire, Gillian, Julie and Lacey representing Cancer Society Wellington at events in Porirua.



The Cancer Society Kāpiti Hub continues to provide a welcoming and accessible local presence for people affected by cancer across the Kāpiti Coast. Through support services, wellbeing programmes, community partnerships and cancer prevention initiatives, the hub helps ensure people can access support close to home.

Throughout the year, the Kāpiti team strengthened relationships with local health providers, community organisations, volunteers and schools, creating more opportunities for people affected by cancer and their whānau to connect, access support and improve their wellbeing.

Connection remained at the heart of the hub's work. Our regular support groups continued to provide a safe space for people to share experiences and support one another, while a new evening CanSupport group launched in June, offering another opportunity for connection and resilience.

We expanded our wellbeing programmes with an Art Therapy pilot facilitated by Jenny Bain, paving the way for regular client sessions, while a successful CanBead workshop encouraged creative connection through shared experiences.

Community partnerships remained central to our work. MenzShed Kāpiti generously built a new retaining wall for the hub garden and gifted a handcrafted wētā hotel, while partnerships with

Vinnies and other local organisations strengthened the practical support available to clients.

The hub continued to promote cancer prevention and early detection through events including Hora Te Pai's Winter Wellness Day and the blessing of the new breast screening facility at Waikanae Health.

Supporting rangatahi and volunteers remained a key focus through the Kāpiti Youth Expo, our Cancer Prevention Advocacy Programme, and the contributions of student volunteers and former clients who supported initiatives such as meal deliveries and community activities.

Daffodil Day once again united the community to raise vital funds and awareness for people affected by cancer.

A highlight was celebrating Cancer Prevention Advocates Yilin and Keita, alongside volunteer James Cole, as they completed their studies and moved on to exciting new opportunities, reflecting the positive impact of volunteering and community involvement.

Through strong partnerships, dedicated volunteers and a commitment to person-centred support, the Kāpiti Hub continues to play an important role in supporting the health and wellbeing of people affected by cancer across the Kāpiti Coast.

LEFT AND RIGHT: Mandy Savage and Cathy Tia from the Kāpiti Centre with volunteers from MenzShed.



Margaret Stewart House

Supported Accommodation

Margaret Stewart House continues to provide a welcoming and supportive home away from home for cancer patients and whānau travelling from outside the region for treatment.

During the year, we introduced a wider range and increased frequency of social and wellbeing activities designed to foster connection, reduce isolation, and enhance the guest experience. Residents enjoyed events including jewellery making workshops, Daffodil Day celebrations, Relay For Life activities, shared lunches, St Patrick's Day festivities, Melbourne Cup gatherings, and Matariki celebrations. These initiatives have helped create a vibrant and inclusive community atmosphere within the House.

Our dedicated volunteers remain at the heart of the service, contributing countless hours to ensure the smooth day-to-day operation of the House while providing companionship and practical support to guests during a challenging time.

Our partnership with Kaibosh has seen our clients further supported with supplies for our corporate groups to make nutritious meals for the freezer and for our community hubs.

Challenges exist with an ageing building and management of bookings with our clinical partners.

Looking ahead, we are excited to refresh a number of bedrooms by the end of 2026 and improve the functionality of the laundry facilities, further enhancing comfort, accessibility, and the overall experience for those who stay with us.



ABOVE: MSH residents, volunteers and staff weaving flax flowers for Matariki.

BELOW: Julie with Leila Houlbrooke from Cancer Society Wellington.



Volunteering

Volunteers continue to be at the heart of the Cancer Society Wellington Division, generously contributing their time, skills, and compassion to support people affected by cancer across our region. This year has been one of growth, adaptation, and celebration as we continue to evolve alongside the changing needs of our communities.

The Cancer Society has seen an exciting shift in the way cancer support services are delivered, taking services closer to where people live and need them most. In response, our volunteering programme has expanded and is transitioning to support this community-based model, ensuring volunteers remain an integral part of delivering meaningful and accessible support throughout the Greater Wellington region.



A highlight of the 2025 year was the Oncology Hosts team receiving the Minister of Health Award for Community and Not-for-Profit Services. Presented by Hon. Simeon Brown, this prestigious award recognised this team's outstanding contribution to patients, whānau, and healthcare staff. Accepting the award on behalf of the team were three long-serving and much-loved volunteers whose dedication, warmth, and tireless support embody the spirit of this recognition.

Our 2026 Volunteer Survey confirmed what we see every day: our volunteers love their mahi. Many shared that their greatest reward comes from hearing the gratitude and appreciation of the people they support, as well as from Cancer Society staff. The survey also provided valuable insights into how we can continue to improve and strengthen the volunteer experience across the region.

Building community connections remains a priority. Through our partnership with Kaibosh Food Rescue, volunteers transform rescued ingredients into nutritious meals for those in need. We have also strengthened our community engagement through attendance at the Lunar Festival and by developing connections with Asian Family Services, helping us reach and support more diverse communities.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to every volunteer. Their generosity, commitment, and compassion make a lasting difference to the lives of people affected by cancer every day.

LEFT: Hon. Simeon Brown with our Oncology Hosts team.

BELOW LEFT: Daffodil Day 2025 Street Appeal Volunteers

BELOW RIGHT: Fresh Flowers are bunched and wrapped by volunteers.



Fundraising & Events



ABOVE: Dame Winnie Laban cutting the 2025 Relay For Life opening ceremony ribbon.

The past year has been one of growth, innovation and incredible community support. As demand for our services continues to increase, we remain deeply grateful to the individuals, businesses, grant funders and volunteers whose generosity enables us to support people and whānau affected by cancer across the Wellington region.

Throughout 2025/26, our Fundraising and Marketing teams focused on strengthening community engagement, increasing awareness of our services, and exploring new ways to build sustainable support for the future.

A highlight of the year was Wellington's largest-ever Relay For Life, held at Sky Stadium in March 2025. Recognised as the largest Relay For Life event in the Southern Hemisphere, more than 4,700 participants came together to celebrate, remember, and fundraise, helping raise over \$1 million to support local cancer services.

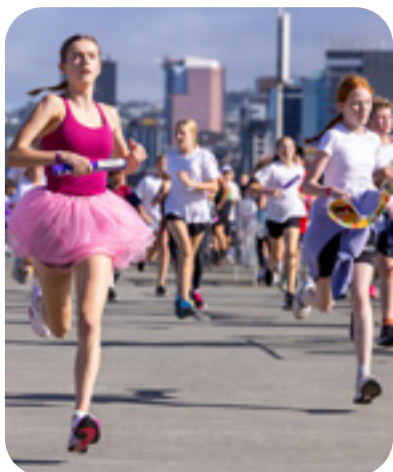
Daffodil Day once again demonstrated the generosity of our community. The Wellington Street Appeal raised almost \$200,000, making it the largest Daffodil Day street appeal in New Zealand. This achievement was made possible by the

dedication of our volunteers, supporters, schools, workplaces, community groups and local businesses who embraced the campaign and helped raise funds throughout the region.

This year also saw the launch of our first Christmas fundraising campaign, *Cancer Doesn't Stop for Christmas*, sharing the story of Julie and her experience staying at Margaret Stewart House while receiving treatment. The campaign highlighted the reality that cancer continues to affect lives throughout the holiday season and the importance of ongoing support.

We also continued to grow our partnerships with local businesses through sponsorships, workplace fundraising and cause-related initiatives. We are grateful to organisations such as Moore Wilson's, Janice's Laundry and many others whose support has helped extend our impact in the community.

Our sincere thanks also go to our regular donors, appeal supporters, major donors and those who choose to leave a gift in their Will. Together, these contributions provide a vital source of funding that enables us to continue delivering support services when they are needed most.



We would also like to acknowledge our grant funders for their continued partnership and investment in our work.

33 Club Trust Board Incorporated
Four Winds Foundation
Kiwi Gaming Foundation
Rano Community Trust
BlueSky Community Trust
New Zealand Community Trust
Nikau Foundation
One Foundation
Lotteries NZ
Pelorus Trust
Ray Watts Charitable Trust
Society Of Mary New Zealand
The Lion Foundation

The Owen & John Whitfield Charitable Trust
The Paddy Brow Charitable Trust
The Sydney and Angela Cumming Charitable Trust
Trust House Limited
Upper Hutt City Council
Walter & Rana Norwood
Hutt Mana Charitable Trust
Wellington City Council
MileStone Foundation
Jack Jeffs Charitable Trust
Z Good in the hood

TOP LEFT: Relay for Life 2025.

TOP RIGHT: Daffodil Day volunteers at our 2025 street appeal.

BOTTOM LEFT: The Longest Day Golf Challenge 2025

BOTTOM MIDDLE: Jump For Cancer 2025.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Nora Barraquero for Cancer Society Wellington dressed up for Daffodil Day 2025.

“On behalf of everyone at the Cancer Society, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of our donors for your incredible support over the past year. Your generosity, commitment and belief in our mission have made a real and lasting difference. Every contribution has helped us continue supporting people affected by cancer in our local community. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and trust.”

Bridget Child,
Head of Fundraising & Partnerships

Wellington Year In Numbers

Key Stats 2025/2026



Community-based Support

1,876

Number of new clients
offered support

1,097

Counselling sessions for clients
and their whānau

4,050

Total number of
client contacts



Transport to Treatment

213,036

Kilometres driven by
Cancer Society Volunteers

3,008

Number of trips taken to get
patients to their appointments

253

Number of
Volunteer drivers



Cancer Research Funded

1

Student
Scholarship
Funded

5

Research
Projects
Funded

16

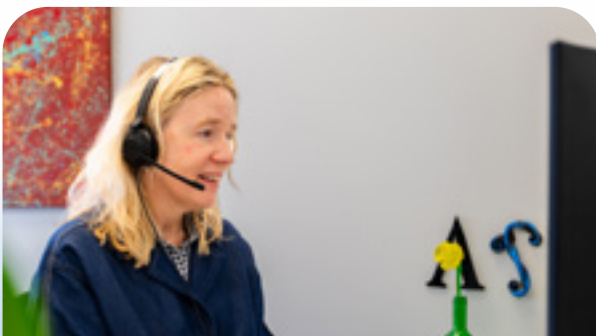
Professional
Development
Grants made



Accommodation

4,720

Total nights accommoda-
tion provided at Margaret
Stewart House



Connecting virtually

5,938

0800 Cancer Information Helpline calls



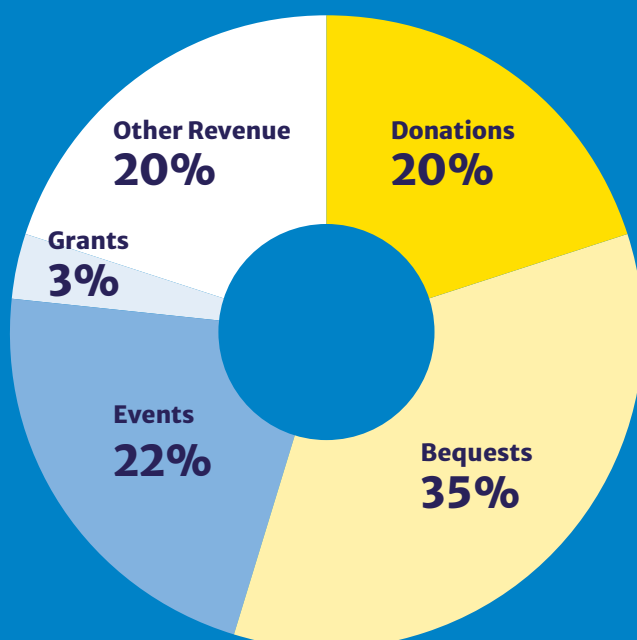
Cancer Prevention and Health Promotion

95

Number of Events Attended

Financial Statements Summary

Revenue Breakdown



Summary Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2026

The presentation currency is New Zealand Dollars rounded to the nearest thousand (000) dollar

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Fundraising	4,925	4,823
Other Income	1,213	1,271
Total Revenue	6,138	6,094
Expenditure		
Costs of Providing Goods/Services	6,246	5,618
Depreciation	218	137
Total Expenses	6,464	5,755
Operating Surplus for the year	(326)	339
Other Comprehensive Income/(loss)	167	(36)
Surplus/(loss) for the year	(159)	303

Summary Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Equity	6,916	7,075
Represented by:		
Current Assets	1,292	1,942
Non Current Assets	6,150	5,832
Total Assets	7,442	7,774
Current Liabilities	526	699
Total Liabilities	526	699
Net Assets	6,916	7,075

Summary Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Net cash inflow / (outflow) from operating activities	(1,073)	921
Net cash inflow / (outflow) from investing activities	(121)	(578)
Net cash inflow / (outflow) from financing activities	9	0
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(1,184)	343

Notes

These Summary Financial Statements have been extracted from the full statements.

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

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

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

The full Financial Statements can be obtained from Charities Services.



Cancer Society Wellington Division

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Wellington Division

**Cancer
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