



Cancer Society

Te Kāhui Matepukupuku o Aotearoa

Canterbury- West Coast Division

Annual Report
2025



Chairperson's Report



Kate Reid
Chairperson

This is my final Chair's report for the Canterbury-West Coast Division of the Cancer Society as we have known it. I am optimistic about the opportunities that lie before us with our merger with the Otago Southland Division and the creation of the Southern Cancer Society Division Trust.

This positive step will assist in future-proofing our organisation, to meet the growing demand for our services and the changing cancer environment.

“

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



I wish to thank the CWC Executive Committee who fully supported this merger, contributing to the strategic vision that will shape the future of cancer care in the south: Alli Copland, Bridget Robinson, Julie Millar, Richard Green, Ruth Gerring, and Sally Wynn-Williams.

Standing down following the last AGM, Annabel Ahuriri-Driscoll and Alister Argyle, also contributed significantly to the new structure. My heartfelt thanks to you all for your unwavering support of the CWC Division and the community we have served.

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 and supporting research.

In March 2025, we held a conference in Christchurch where we brought together researchers, investors, computational pathologists, and some of the best minds nationally and internationally, working to reduce the impact and incidence of cancer, to explore the latest findings and opportunities.

Cancer Society Southern's region extends from Kaikoura in the north across to the West Coast and down to Bluff. Its communities extend across urban and rural landscapes and into very remote areas. To make our services as accessible as possible, this year we introduced an online portal to allow easier access to information, support groups and our navigators. It also provides more choice and greater flexibility for our clients.

Latest research continues to support the benefits of holistic healthcare to support traditional treatments while people go through their cancer journey. As such, we now provide access to a programme to support people during after their treatments – the Cancer Patient Empowerment Programme.

None of this would have been possible without our passionate and committed staff and volunteers, ably led by our CEO, Nicola Coom. On behalf of the executive committee, I thank you all for your unfailing commitment to the work of this Division. I wish to acknowledge the ANZ Bank - principal sponsor of Daffodil Day and major sponsor of the Cancer Society of New Zealand throughout the year. I sincerely thank all our partners and generous donors for the tremendous work they do to support people at a very vulnerable time of their life. It is certainly appreciated.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve on the CWC executive committee and Chair over recent years, I am continuing on the Southern Board as one of the founding trustees and warmly welcome Amy Adams as Chair, as we champion our renewed aim of a future free from cancer and to support every person, every cancer.

I look forward to our continued work together.

Kate

Foreword from the Chief Executive



Nicola Coom
Chief Executive

He waka eke noa We are all in this together

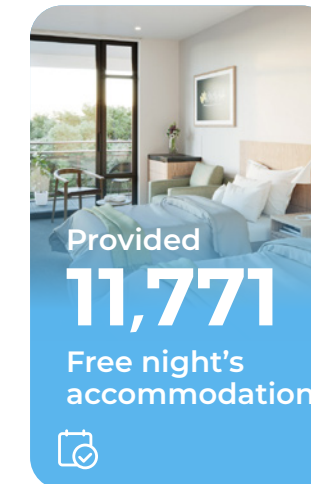
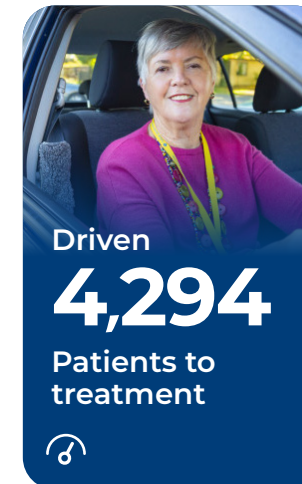
This whakataukī beautifully reflects the spirit of the Cancer Society Canterbury-West Coast and Cancer Society Otago Southland and the journey we've been on to come together and form the Cancer Society Southern. It's been a time of growth, transformation, and deepened connection with our communities.

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 Canterbury-West Coast 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

The hidden challenges of remote living



Maree Yaxley
Cancer Navigator

Living in an urban environment or close by, it's hard to imagine the hidden challenges that many New Zealanders living more remotely have, especially in an emergency.

It makes the work Cancer Society Canterbury-West Coast and its navigators do all the more important.

Hokitika Cancer Navigator Maree Yaxley has seen these challenges firsthand and is glad she's there to help.

"I picked up a call one morning from a lady that wasn't a client at that stage. Her husband had an appointment with an oncologist in Christchurch the next week, but he had other things going on and he wasn't well.

"She was trying to get him to go to hospital, but he refused. He didn't want to die in hospital.

"She had no phone coverage at her home; coverage here can be intermittent. She had to run to a neighbour to use their phone, not knowing if she was leaving a dying husband at home.

"She tried her GP and other agencies, but I was the first person who picked up. She couldn't wait for a call back because she didn't know if her husband was dying. She didn't want to leave him at home alone."

Maree said there was little she could do. Her husband was adamant he didn't want to go back to hospital to die and the stress the woman was in was immense.

"I think she just needed someone to take control and tell her what to do. She said her husband had flatly refused an ambulance to go to hospital and besides she could drive him to the hospital faster than an ambulance could get to them.

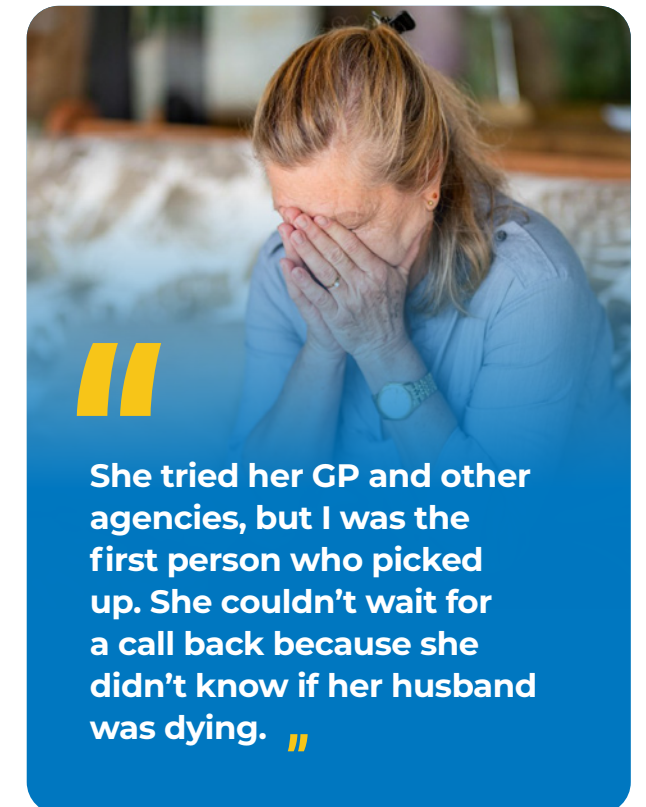
"So, we looked at next steps. She had to get him to the Grey ED. She just needed to go back and tell him she'd spoken to someone, and they said he had to go. It was like giving her permission to make him do it."

The woman's husband was adamant he didn't want to go back to hospital to die and the stress the woman was in was immense.

While not all calls are as dramatic as this one, Maree said there were stresses and hardships associated for health professionals and patients alike, when it came to living in New Zealand's more remote areas – things like the poor phone and internet reception, which most of us take for granted.

At the same time, those challenges made the role more rewarding. Maree has worked with the Cancer Society Canterbury-West Coast for eight years and loved every minute of it.

"Everyone says it but the wonderful people you meet, and you feel like you're doing something worthwhile.



“

She tried her GP and other agencies, but I was the first person who picked up. She couldn't wait for a call back because she didn't know if her husband was dying. ”

"A lot of our more remote work is done by phone but there are times when we travel to very remote areas. I had one client who lived off the grid and her home was down a very remote farm track, overgrown. But she was so pleased to see me. She hadn't seen anyone for weeks.

"She had support but not the right type so being able to help and she's so amazing, it makes everything worthwhile.

"Sometimes we have to drive up quite narrow twisty, hilly roads. The directions might be 'I put a rubbish bag at the gate, so you know where to come'. They can be in the middle of nowhere and finding the place can be difficult. You start to think you've taken the wrong turn, but it always works out.

"We always take care of ourselves though. Our safety is top of mind."

Maree said an important role for the Cancer Society was being part of these communities and able to support people in every corner.

"I know they choose to live remotely, and they like the isolation, but when you're sick, everyone deserves support.

"I can't think of any other job I'd rather do."

Foodstuffs
South Island

Partnership at the heart of our communities

An extremely generous donation from Foodstuffs South Island in the way of food vouchers, has made a huge difference to families in the Canterbury-West Coast area, as they navigate their way through their cancer journey. The voucher donation was given to Canterbury-West Coast to distribute in February and in the first three months, more than 50 families throughout the Canterbury-West Coast district had benefitted.

Craig Watson, Head of Cancer Services for the Cancer Society Canterbury-West Coast, said embarking on a cancer journey was tough especially during the current financial crisis.

"The food vouchers are making a huge difference to our families experiencing real need. Many clients need to give up work due to their diagnosis and treatment. That means dropping to one wage or living off savings. Some people are too sick to work.

"They often need support for daily living expenses, especially food with the increased cost of living. Some are even selling assets to access treatment because of the wait times and cost of some treatments. It's helpful for our Cancer Navigators to be able to offer some practical support to clients."

In the 2024/25 financial year, we assisted 1,973 clients and their whānau as well as driving patients to treatment 4,294 times and provided 11,771 free nights' accommodation while people accessed treatment.



Craig Watson
Head of Cancer Services

Craig said it would be easy to give the vouchers to everyone. A cancer journey was tough. However, with limited resources, and cancer diagnoses set to double in the next decade, it was important that client need was assessed so those most needing assistance received it.

"We need to be cautious so we ensure those suffering the most hardship can have that support. What I can say without doubt, is that the food vouchers have made a positive impact for our clients and relieved some of the stress associated with their diagnosis."

All the recipients are extremely grateful to Foodstuffs South Island for its generosity.

Though many wanted to keep their circumstances private, some offered quotes to our cancer navigators about the difference it had made to them.

“

I want to thank the Cancer Society for helping me and my kids. I have breast cancer and had to stop work during chemo. On a benefit with three kids, it's hard to pay bills and buy food. The vouchers I received moved me to tears – one night instead of spaghetti again, I made a cottage pie with veges. It was the happiest night we'd had in a long time.

”

Thank you with all my heart, Amanda

PARKS

Parks Towing General Manager Stu Gerring has two celebrations on his hands this year – their 100th anniversary in business and three years of partnering with the Cancer Society Canterbury-West Coast to raise money for those needing support on their cancer journey.

"Parks wants to be a good citizen and do something with a charity to pay something back to our customers and community,"

Stu said. "Sponsoring the Cancer Society Canterbury-West Coast seemed to be the logical answer. We have had many staff affected by cancer either themselves or their family and we have all had friends.

"It's a great charity because it works right across every part of every community. We love doing it."

Each year Parks Towing runs a fundraising golf tournament and has a line-up of staff wanting to take part by playing golf or supporting the event in some other way. This year the event was held on 4 April, and it could not have been a better day or turn out.

Ashley Murray, the CEO's PA, said they had held the tournament for three years and she was here to ensure food and drinks were available to participants and support it in any other way she could. "And it's great to be outside on what's probably the last nice day of the summer," she said as temperatures hit 29 degrees.

"Raising money for the Cancer Society Canterbury-West Coast is something we really enjoy doing. Everyone here today volunteered for the job."

Sharon Marshall and Justine Newsome from Parks relished the opportunity to support the Cancer Society, again referring to people they knew who had battled cancer.

Lisa Olier, from Teletrac Navman had also volunteered. "Parks and Teletrac Navman work very closely together. My company has members in the event, and I'm here to lend a hand as well as I can. "I'm manning the barbecue to feed the troops as they come through."

The Cancer Society is extremely grateful for the efforts of both companies. CEO Nicola Coom congratulated 'our valued supporter' Parks Towing, on their 100th year in business.

"This is a significant milestone, and we congratulate you and thank you for the many years of service to our community." Stu said he was hoping next year's event would be even more successful and looked forward to continuing to support Cancer Society Canterbury-West Coast.

BATHURST
RESOURCES LIMITED

BT MINING

Bathurst Resources and BT Mining's donation of a Mitsubishi Outlander to Cancer Society West Coast has advantaged residents immensely, Cancer Society CEO Nicola Coom said.

"I feel immense gratitude for their generosity and the very practical and important way they have chosen to support their communities and the Cancer Society's work," she said. "Not only did they donate the vehicle but also the running expenses which allows us to reach families in even the most remote locations."

"It is helping us meet the needs in the community, enabling us to visit patients in their homes and access the support they need at a very challenging time for them."

Community Manager West Coast Shell Haworth said having a reliable vehicle was essential to reach clients in a timely way.

We have people living in very remote areas on West Coast. I had one case, a palliative patient who was living very remotely off the grid up in Karamea and she was so pleased to see me she hadn't seen anyone in days.

"I also use it to get to clinics, a minimum of two to three in Buller each month and others in Reefton and I'll make four or five home visits in an afternoon. We have one client who is driven to treatment a couple of times a month and we transport other clients when needed."

Ms Coom said demand for Cancer Society navigator services had risen by more than 47.3% in the past 18 months. West Coast alone had supported 207 individuals and their families with cancer and their families in the past 12 months, and demand was expected to continue to grow. Ms Haworth said the branding that had been applied to the vehicle was also making a difference by keeping them visible in the community and had resulted in more people contacting the Society.



Bathurst Resources and BT Mining donation of a Mitsubishi Outlander to Cancer Society. Head of Cancer Services Craig Watson, Bathurst Resources CEO, Richard Tacon, Community Manager West Coast, Shell Haworth



A small change could prevent cancer for many women

“

I want people to understand the value of screening, taking responsibility for your health, and following up when something feels wrong. **Don't take no for an answer.** Do it for your children if not for yourself.

”

Lisa Fenwick

“Women need to be told,” says Ashburton woman Lisa Fenwick, who is still grieving the loss of her mother and best friend, Pam Fenwick, who died from endometrial cancer in August 2004.

Lisa herself narrowly escaped the same fate, not through proactive care, but thanks to a coincidental blood test. According to the OECD, improving cancer prevention and care in New Zealand could significantly reduce the burden of cancer. Focusing on key risk factors could prevent around seven percent of all cancer cases. If New Zealand matched the best survival rates in the OECD and EU, it could prevent one in six premature cancer deaths, increase life expectancy by four months, and add the equivalent of 1,000 full-time workers to the economy.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in New Zealand. Between now and 2050, one in three premature deaths will be due to cancer, with an estimated 3,300 deaths annually. This lowers the average life expectancy by 2.2 years.

Lisa's brush with cancer came after a period of personal strain. A former triathlete, she had gained weight while raising two children alone and coping with the loss of her mother. When her menstrual cycle stopped in her mid-40s, she assumed it was menopause, a common assumption among New Zealand women.

“I had a blood test for something unrelated and it showed I hadn't gone through menopause. I had to travel for an exploratory test, which was painful, to measure the thickness of my endometrial lining. Thankfully, I was okay. All it took was a pill to regulate things and reduce the risk.”

Lisa believes obesity can mask menstruation and that every woman should be checked when their cycle stops, especially if they are overweight. “At the very least, the medical profession needs to let women know the risk.”

Her mother Pam died at just 64. Lisa and her three sisters were devastated. “There was so much Mum wanted to do. Watch her grandkids grow, visit England, tend her garden. She lived for us girls.”

Lisa felt anger and guilt. “I was angry she hadn't followed up on treatment, and that the system hadn't followed up on her. Maybe I felt guilty for not pushing her, but she didn't share all her symptoms.”

Two free counselling sessions from the Cancer Society helped Lisa cope. “These conversations changed everything and lifted a huge weight off my shoulders.”

Pam's story began on the West Coast, where she reported irregular bleeding to her GP and was referred for tests. But the family moved to Ashburton, then Pam to Kaikōura, and the referral was lost. When she finally saw a new GP, she was told she needed an operation and would be fine.

“I still remember the surgeon coming in after the operation and saying there was ‘disappointing’ news. It wasn't uterine cancer, it was endometrial cancer, which often spreads before it's found. Mum asked if it was terminal. He said yes.”

Pam underwent radiation but passed away within months. “Mum disappeared into herself. I cried a lot, but we had to get on with it and make sure she was okay. My sister Kym, a nurse, flew back from Australia to care for her.”

Pam was a larger woman, and Kym cared for her until she couldn't anymore. “We lost this beautiful, caring, deep-thinking woman. She loved life, people, and her grandchildren. There was so much she still wanted to do.” Lisa says the family feels robbed. “Mum too, before she passed. After years of hard work and raising four daughters alone, she never even got the chance to draw superannuation.”

Though a private person, Lisa is speaking out because she believes every woman should know the risks. “I want people to understand the value of screening, taking responsibility for your health, and following up when something feels wrong. Don't take no for an answer. Do it for your children if not for yourself.”

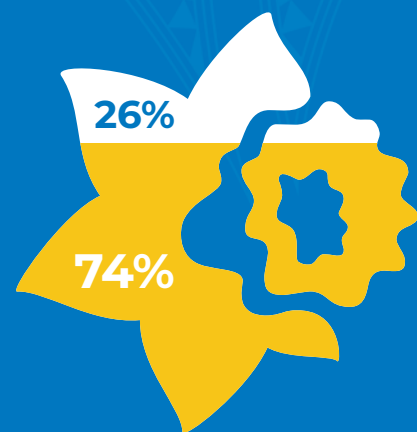
She also champions research. “The Cancer Society is the largest non-government supporter of research in New Zealand. They know research is what will end this awful disease.”

Lisa is hopeful. “We all need to get behind it. We will save lives if we invest in research. I know a vaccine for endometrial cancer is being trialled now. Mum could have been saved.”

Our Finances

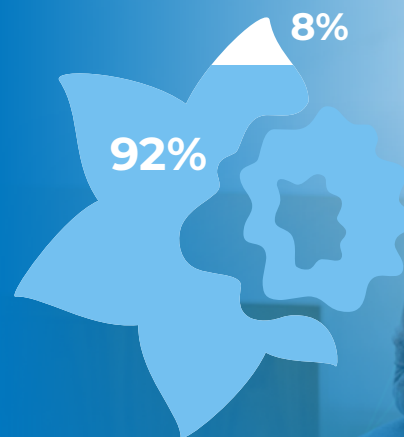
Cancer Society Of New Zealand
Canterbury-West Coast Division Incorporated
Consolidated Group

Revenue for the year ended 31st March 2025



■ Non-Exchange Transaction Income ■ Costs of Providing Goods/ Services
■ Exchange Transaction Income ■ Depreciation

Expenses for the year ended 31st March 2025



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

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue		
Non-Exchange Transaction Income	7,763	5,583
Exchange Transaction Income	2,717	3,882
Total Revenue	10,480	9,465
Expenses		
Costs of Providing Goods/ Services	7,965	5,951
Depreciation	656	167
Total Expenses	8,622	6,118
Share of Encompass Health - JV - (Deficit)	(34)	(67)
Net Operating Surplus	1,824	3,280
Other Comprehensive Income	-	1,706
Total Comprehensive Income & Expense for the year	1,824	4,986

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

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
Opening Equity Balance	39,884	35,147
Surplus for the year	1,824	4,986
Reclassification Rural Groups	-	251
Closing Equity balance	41,708	39,882
Comprising:		
Property Revaluation Reserve	1,706	1,706
Movement in Fair Value of Investments	-	-
Accumulated Funds	40,002	38,678
Total	41,708	39,884

Summary Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
Equity	41,708	39,884
Represented by:		
Current Assets	41,793	11,598
Non Current Assets	1,018	29,383
Total Assets	42,811	40,982
Current Liabilities	1,103	1,096
Total Liabilities	1,103	1,096
Net Assets	41,708	39,885

Summary Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	2,814	1,529
Net Cash Flow (to) Investing Activities	(5,533)	3,785
Net Cash from Financing Activities	(22)	(48)

Notes to Summary Financial Statements

- These Summary Financial Statements have been extracted from the full statements which were authorised for issue by the Board on 25 August 2025.
- The specific disclosures included in these Summary Financial Statements have been extracted from the full Financial Statements for each relevant period.
- The full Financial Statements for each relevant period has been audited and an unqualified audit report has been issued for the year ended 31 March 2025.
- The Financial Statements of the Society have been prepared in accordance with Tier 2 Public Benefit Entity Reduced Disclosure Regime (Not-For-Profit).
- Cancer Society of New Zealand Canterbury-West Coast Division Incorporated is a public benefit entity and was incorporated on 11 May 1949.
- The presentation currency is New Zealand dollars rounded to the nearest thousand dollar.
- 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 the Chief Executive at Cancer Society of New Zealand Canterbury-West Coast Division Incorporated.
- The Summary Statement of Service Performance is included in the Chief Executives Report.
- Events after the reporting date. The Society is in the process of updating its constitution and re-registering under the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022. 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

Canterbury- West Coast Division



Our Centres

Christchurch Centre

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South Canterbury Centre

32 Memorial Avenue, PO Box 682, Timaru 7940

P: 03 688 0124 E: southcanty@southerncancer.org.nz

Mid Canterbury Centre

122 Kermode Street, PO Box 296, Ashburton 7740

P: 03 307 7691 E: midcanty@southerncancer.org.nz

West Coast Centre

98 High Street, PO Box 81, Greymouth 7840

P: 03 768 9557 E: westcoast@southerncancer.org.nz