



# cancernet



## Introduction

### Tēnā koutou katoa.

*This edition of Cancernet highlights the work of the Look Good Feel Better charity and shares insights from their recent research into wellbeing among people receiving cancer care. It's no surprise to us as cancer nurses that wellbeing scores tend to decline over the course of treatment – we witness this daily. However, this research prompts us to reflect on what we, as nurses, can do to support and enhance our patients' sense of wellbeing.*

*Look Good Feel Better are strong advocates for patient wellbeing. Beyond their well-known makeup and skincare classes, they offer a range of wellbeing interventions to which patients can be referred. These services are valuable tools in our holistic approach to care.*

**Edith Paulsen and Jani Witchall**  
Cancernet Co-Editors

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Chair Annual Report	3
Pharmacology education for nurses	4
Latest PHARMAC-funded cancer medicines	5
Conferences	6
Professional development opportunities	7

## A window into wellbeing: Insights from the 2024/25 Cancer Wellbeing Tracker and Look Good Feel Better NZ

**By Clare O'Higgins, General Manager, Look Good Feel Better NZ.**

At Look Good Feel Better NZ, we believe that cancer care must reach beyond medical treatment to support the whole person, emotionally, physically, and mentally. Our vision is centred around restoring a sense of normalcy, dignity, and confidence for anyone facing cancer, no matter their diagnosis or stage. This belief guided our decision to commission the 2024/25 Cancer Wellbeing Tracker, a nationwide study to better understand how people in Aotearoa New Zealand are navigating life with cancer and what truly helps them feel well.

We are proud to share these findings with our community, particularly with cancer nurses who walk alongside patients in some of life's most vulnerable moments. Your insights, compassion and care are woven into every phase of the cancer journey. We hope this research supports and strengthens your understanding of how wellbeing can be nurtured, alongside treatment.

### A snapshot of the study

The Cancer Wellbeing Tracker research, carried out by Ipsos between July and August 2024, involved over 2,000

New Zealanders, including 1,271 individuals living with cancer or supporting someone through cancer. The focus was to better understand wellbeing, explore the use and impact of complementary therapies, and highlight areas where emotional support is needed most.

Importantly, the research used the WHO-5 Wellbeing Index, a self-rated measure of emotional wellbeing. This index assesses feelings and mood over the past two weeks, with scores ranging from 0 (lowest wellbeing) to 25 (highest wellbeing). The simplicity and sensitivity of this tool offered meaningful insights into how people are feeling in real time, allowing us to understand where support is landing well and where it might be missing.

### A look at wellbeing: from diagnosis to recovery

One of the standout findings from the research is that people with cancer often report a decline in wellbeing after treatment. In fact, **40% of patients said they felt worse post-treatment** than at the time of their diagnosis. This challenges some of the assumptions around recovery and highlights a need for continued emotional and psychological support after treatment ends.

Overall wellbeing scores averaged:

- **14.7** for cancer patients
- **14.4** for their supporters
- Compared to **15.5** among the general population

Notably, **women facing cancer reported lower wellbeing scores (14.0)** compared to **men (16.1)**. And while individual experiences vary, this finding reminds us to consider how gender, social roles and expectations might influence how support is accessed and received.

When asked about overall life satisfaction, patients rated their experience at **6.7 out of 10**, a reminder that wellbeing is not just about coping, but about cultivating moments of joy, purpose, and connection.

### What brings comfort and confidence

Cancer often disrupts not just the body, but daily routines, identities, and relationships. In navigating these challenges, patients found several non-medical approaches that supported their wellbeing.

#### Top wellbeing boosters included:

- Gentle exercise
- Spending time with loved ones
- Healthy eating
- Massage therapy
- Taking supplements

*Continued on next page >>*

## A window into wellbeing: Insights from the 2024/25 Cancer Wellbeing Tracker and Look Good Feel Better NZ

- Exploring meditation and mindfulness

In fact, **75% of patients used supplements**, and **72% engaged in massage therapy**, showing a strong reliance on supportive, non-clinical care. Many patients said these practices helped restore their sense of control and confidence, both key ingredients in resilience and recovery.

At Look Good Feel Better NZ, these findings deeply resonate with our kaupapa. They echo what we have heard in hundreds of conversations across the motu: that the smallest acts of self-care can often create the biggest emotional lift.

### Supporting the supporters

One of the most quietly powerful insights from the research was the experience of supporters, partners, whānau, and close friends who walk the journey alongside cancer patients. While often behind the scenes, their emotional wellbeing matters just as deeply.

The study found that:

- **32% of supporters reported poor wellbeing**
- Many lacked time, energy, or space for their own self-care
- **Guilt** was a common barrier to prioritising personal wellbeing

And yet, when supporters engaged in **open conversations** about their feelings, their wellbeing scores improved. This suggests that creating space for honest connection can be incredibly healing, not just for patients, but also for those who stand

beside them.

Supporters said they benefited most from:

- **Sharing positive stories**
- **Receiving self-care tips**
- **Being reminded they are not alone**

As cancer nurses, you are often the first to notice when a supporter is struggling quietly. Taking a moment to acknowledge their role and invite them into conversations about care can have a meaningful impact.

### Look Good Feel Better NZ: practical support with heart

Everything we do at Look Good Feel Better NZ is grounded in the belief that wellbeing is about more than surviving cancer, it is about feeling like yourself again. Every smile in the mirror, every shared laugh, and every moment of connection contributes to a person's healing.

You might have known us for our signature community skincare classes. Today we offer:

- **19 wellbeing programmes and over 480 classes annually which include;**
- **Free skincare and makeup workshops** held in over 40 communities across the country
- **Online complimentary wellbeing sessions**, accessible from anywhere in Aotearoa New Zealand
- A comprehensive library of **on-demand videos, live sessions, podcasts, and expert Q&As**
- A safe space for people to **connect, share and feel understood**

Our sessions are about confidence, control, connection, and community.

For many participants, they offer a chance to take back something cancer has disrupted, the joy of looking after oneself and feeling seen.

We proudly support anyone with any cancer at any stage - all our support is totally free. Whether newly diagnosed or long past treatment, everyone deserves access to tools that remind them they are more than their illness.

### A shared vision

As cancer nurses, your care goes far beyond physical treatment. You see the full story, each patient's pain, courage, and moments of light. We hope this research helps you continue to advocate for holistic, person-centred care and to recognise that healing is as much about restoring hope as it is about eliminating disease.

Our call to action, is to keep growing spaces where cancer care includes emotional wellbeing, self-worth, and joy. To continue to honour every person's journey with the kind of kindness that changes outcomes, not just physically, but emotionally too.

Thank you for all that you do. Together, we are shaping a future where people with cancer and those who support them feel truly understood, empowered, and cared for.



To connect with us or refer a patient, visit [www.lgfb.co.nz](http://www.lgfb.co.nz)



## Safe handling of monoclonal antibodies – Position statement update

The Cancer Nurses College released its initial position statement on the safe handling of monoclonal antibodies (mABs) in 2020, in response to the need for national guidance. This document has now been updated to reflect current international research and best practices.

THE CURRENT POSITION:

*It is the position of the Cancer Nurses College NZNO that cancer nurses should not be involved in the preparation of monoclonal antibodies unless a short expiry date makes it prohibitive to provide the medication in compounded form at the point of administration – particularly in remote or rural settings.*

*Where expiry times allow, mABs should be provided in compounded form as a standard operating procedure.*

*Additionally, any nurse involved in compounding mABs must receive appropriate training in aseptic technique and compounding procedures before undertaking this task independently. Organisations requiring nurses to compound mABs must have a documented training and competency assessment pathway, along with relevant policies and procedures to support safe practice.*

Please ensure you read the full updated position statement upon its release.



## Chair Annual Report FY 2024/2025

### Tēnā koutou katoa.

*As we reflect on the past year, it is clear that the NZNO Cancer Nurses*

*College has navigated a time of considerable systemic pressure and transformation. Amid workforce constraints, tightened budgets, and ongoing sector reforms, the unwavering commitment of cancer nurses to delivering safe, equitable, and patient-centered care has stood strong.*

*This year's work has been underscored by a shared recognition that equity remains central to our mission.*

*Our annual conference, which centered around the theme "Addressing Inequities across the Cancer Nursing Continuum," reinforced the importance of equity-focused models of care and standardisation in practice.*

*Presentations such as Jason Gurney's on equity through standardised care catalysed renewed momentum across our mahi – highlighting the role nursing leadership must play in reducing variation and dismantling systemic barriers across Aotearoa's cancer care landscape.*

*Nationally, Te Whatu Ora's Cancer Clinical Network has now replaced the former Te Aho o Te Kahu Clinical Assembly and the Medical Oncology, Haematology, and Radiation Oncology Working Groups. This new structure includes a strategic group, of which I am a member, alongside an operational group and the development of Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs).*

*We are currently advocating for the establishment of a cancer nursing-specific Technical Advisory Group to ensure our voice and expertise remain central to the shaping of cancer services.*

*We are also contributing to a nationally agreed Cancer Nursing Education Pathway, an important step toward aligning workforce capability with current and future models of care. This work reflects our continued commitment to strengthening nursing expertise and visibility across the continuum.*

*Despite fiscal constraints, the College remains active in supporting professional development. We have maintained grants for postgraduate study, conference attendance, and other educational opportunities. In addition, we've launched new initiatives including a dedicated YouTube channel to host free educational webinars, broadening access to knowledge-sharing across the sector.*

*It is becoming increasingly urgent that we articulate the complexity and impact of our work. Many of our outpatient and community settings fall outside of the CCDM framework, making the reliance on Clause 33 of the MECA insufficient in truly resourcing equity-driven, best-practice care. The question remains: does safe staffing alone equate to quality outcomes for our patients, and how do we better define the outcomes we seek as cancer nurses? Establishing nationally agreed-upon patient-based nursing outcomes must be a strategic priority in the coming year.*

*Leadership across cancer nursing also remains an area of concern. Where once there were national and regional nurse leads, we now see a fragmented picture with limited formal leadership roles and shrinking FTEs – particularly for cancer-specific nursing leadership positions within Te Whatu Ora. We must continue to advocate for sustainable and strategic nursing leadership structures that can support workforce advancement – from Clinical Nurse Specialists to Nurse Practitioners – and influence future models of care.*

*This year also marked a significant internal milestone with the departure of our long-standing secretary, Celia. Her contributions helped stabilise the committee during a time of high turnover, and her legacy will continue to shape how we support one another going forward. We are taking steps to better share workload and rethink how we structure our committee to be resilient and responsive to change.*

*In closing, it's been a year of challenge and recalibration – but also one of resilience, clarity of purpose, and strategic positioning. We are entering FY 25/26 with renewed resolve to build strong partnerships, foster nursing leadership, and continue our vital advocacy to embed equity and excellence in cancer care across Aotearoa.*

*Ngā mihi nui,*

**Shelley Shea**  
**Chair – NZNO Cancer Nurses College**

## Committee updates

Since the last edition of Cancernet, we have farewelled **Celia Ryan**, who contributed to the Cancer Nurses College for several years. Celia did an outstanding job in her role as Secretary, keeping the committee organised and on track. She was also a pivotal organiser of the 2024 CNC Conference held in Christchurch. Thank you, Celia, for your dedication and contribution.

We're pleased to welcome three new members to our committee:

**Andrea Reily (West Coast)**

**Liv Collier (Tauranga)**

**Heather Bustin (Christchurch)**

We also wish to acknowledge the work of **Shelley Shea**, who has indicated she will be stepping down from the committee and her role as Chairperson following our BGM in October. Shelley has provided steady leadership during a time of significant change. She has represented the College nationally through the Te Aho o Te Kahu Clinical Assembly and has been actively involved in developing the Cancer Nurses Education Pathway (currently in progress). Thank you, Shelley, for your invaluable contributions.

### Conference update

We're excited to be partnering with NZSO2025 for the upcoming conference themed "Cancer and Our Community." In line with our commitment to equity and access to education, the Cancer Nurses College is offering a \$200 discount to the first 75 members who register. This discount can be accessed using the code sent to your membership email.

### CNC Biennial General Meeting (BGM)

Our BGM will be held during the NZSO2025 conference:

**9 October 2025, 1:20-2:00pm**

**The Dunedin Centre, 1 Harrop Street, Dunedin**

Look out for signposts to the BGM room

***We would love to have your input – please join us!***

# Pharmacology education for nurses

**Pharmacology is a cornerstone of nursing education, particularly in oncology, where protocols are complex, rapidly evolving, and often high-risk. In New Zealand, cancer remains one of the leading causes of death, with significant health disparities affecting Maori and Pacific populations (Jeffreys et al., 2005).**

**Studying the Principles of Pharmacology has expanded my knowledge and empowered me as an oncology nurse to deliver safe, holistic care to patients and their families. It has also highlighted the importance of staying current with evidence-based treatments developed in New Zealand and internationally.**

Cancer remains one of the most pressing health issues facing New Zealanders today. According to the (Te aho o Kahu, 2020), more than 25,000 Kiwis are diagnosed with cancer each year, with Maori experiencing disproportionately higher rates of both cancer incidence and mortality. In Te Whatu Ora-Health New Zealand,

oncology nurses work in various settings, from community clinics to hospitals, administering complex chemotherapies, targeted therapies, and immunotherapies. A pharmacology course enables nurses like me to understand how medications work, their side effects, and interactions with other drugs. This is crucial in preventing and minimising complications and improving patient safety (New Zealand Nurses Organisation. Guidelines for Nurses on the Administration of Medicines, 2024).

Medication safety is a central focus in oncology nursing, especially in a high-risk environment where dosing errors can lead to severe consequences. Pharmacology education strengthens nurses' competence in identifying adverse drug reactions, understanding pharmacokinetics, and preventing harmful interactions, which is vital given the increasing use of oral anticancer agents that patients self-administer (Te aho o Te Kahu, 2022). Nurses are key in detecting side effects such as febrile neutropenia early, allowing for timely medical intervention and avoiding preventable hospitalisations.

Furthermore, pharmacology knowledge supports

equitable and culturally safe care. The principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi – Partnership, Participation, and Protection – are foundational in New Zealand's nursing practice. Culturally competent oncology nurses use pharmacology to educate patients in a way that is accessible and meaningful, taking into account language, health literacy, and cultural perspectives. This is particularly relevant for Maori and Pasifika patients, who may experience barriers to care or mistrust due to historical inequities (Sheridan et al., 2024). Clear explanations of cancer treatment, potential side effects, and the importance of adherence can significantly improve treatment outcomes.

Integrating new therapies such as immunotherapy, targeted therapies, and precision medicine also highlights the need for advanced pharmacological understanding. These treatments often involve novel mechanisms of action and a unique side effect profile. Oncology nurses with strong pharmacology training are better prepared to monitor patients, educate families, and collaborate with oncologists and pharmacists to tailor care plans accordingly (Te Aho o Te Kahu, 2022).

In conclusion, pharmacology courses are instrumental in advancing oncology nursing practice in New Zealand. They support medication safety, improve culturally responsive care, and prepare nurses to respond to the evolving cancer care landscape. With ongoing disparities and emerging new treatment modalities, equipping oncology nurses with pharmacological knowledge is essential to delivering high-quality patient-centred care across Aotearoa.

**by Darcy Malmis**

# Latest PHARMAC-funded cancer medicines

(EFFECTIVE FROM 1 APRIL 2025)

In March 2025, PHARMAC announced the funding of six additional cancer drugs, leveraging the Government’s \$604 million medicine budget uplift. These changes are set to benefit approximately 180 cancer patients in the coming year.

Here’s a summary:

DRUG AND BRAND	INDICATION
<b>Nivolumab (Opdivo) and Ipilimumab (Yervoy)</b>	Metastatic clear cell kidney cancer
<b>Axitinib (Inlyta)</b>	Second-line metastatic clear cell kidney cancer
<b>Sunitinib</b>	Metastatic kidney cancer at any treatment stage
<b>Inotuzumab ozogamicin (Besponsa)</b>	Relapsed/refractory B cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia
<b>Crizotinib (Xalkori)</b>	ROS1 mutated advanced non small cell lung cancer
<b>Ceftazidime + Avibactam (Zavicefta)</b>	Carbapenem-resistant bacterial infections (adjacent benefit to cancer patients)

These new treatments will “slow disease progression and could improve survival”. The rollout is supported with transition provisions allowing patients already receiving treatment in private facilities to continue uninterrupted until July 2026.

Additionally, effective 1 March 2025, PHARMAC funded:

- **Atezolizumab + Bevacizumab:** unresectable liver cancer
- **Bevacizumab:** advanced ovarian cancer
- **Lanreotide:** neuroendocrine tumours (including acromegaly, bowel blockage)

Since the 2024 budget boost, 22 cancer drugs have been brought forward for funding, with 7 more under review.

## Policy and access implications

- **Transitional access:** From 1 July 2025, patients already on newly funded medicines in private settings can continue in the same facility for 12 months, avoiding disruption.

 [Learn more](#)

- **Brand switching:** A new brand of palbociclib will be funded from 1 July 2025; patients have until 1 December 2025 to transition.

 [Learn more](#)

- **Private provision:** Ministry of Health is coordinating with private providers to integrate these medicines into approved private facilities.

## What this means for nurses and patients

- Expanded treatment options across multiple cancer types (kidney, lung, blood, liver, ovarian, neuroendocrine), improving survival and quality of life.

- Smooth care transitions via transitional access policy – crucial to maintaining therapeutic continuity and reducing patient stress.
- Role of nurses: Oncology nurses will be instrumental in educating patients on new therapies, managing side effects, coordinating care across public and private sectors, and ensuring equitable, safe administration.

## Looking ahead

PHARMAC continues to evaluate other promising cancer therapies – including venetoclax and additional blood-cancer-targeted drugs. Public consultations remain open for various medicines, including an upcoming change in palbociclib brand and eligibility for ursodeoxycholic acid for certain leukemia/lymphoma patients.

 [Learn more](#)

## Final words

The Cancer Nurses College remains dedicated to ensuring that our nursing workforce is well-equipped to meet these evolving care needs. Through standardised education, upskilling, and active engagement in national forums like NZSO2025, we’ll continue to drive excellence in cancer care delivery – supporting patients, families, and families across Aotearoa.

## For more information:

 [PHARMAC updates: “Cancer and other medicines: track our progress”](#)

 [Ministry of Health’s private facility transitional access policy](#)

# LYMPHOMA SUMMIT 2025

Napier War Memorial Centre  
3-4 October 2025

Lymphoma Network NZ AGM  
Thursday 2 October

Supported by



## LYMPHOMA SUMMIT NZ 2025 | 3-4 October 2025 | Napier

Join leading specialists from New Zealand, Canada, and Australia at our inaugural Lymphoma Summit - a focused two-day conference advancing lymphoproliferative disorder care.

### Key focus areas:

- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia (CLL)
- Latest lymphoma treatment approaches
- Clinical best practices and research developments

 [More information and register here](#)

## NZSO 55<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

New Zealand  
Society for Oncology

CANCER AND OUR COMMUNITY

9-11 OCTOBER 2025 • DUNEDIN

Hosted by: New Zealand Society for Oncology

### Highlights:

- Focus on community engagement and translational research
- Free public plenary session
- Inaugural Nurses & Allied Health Award
- Participation from the Cancer Nurses College
- Charity support for The Bowling Club Community Eatery

 [More information and register here](#)

## SAVE THE DATE:

# 2026 NATIONAL LYMPHOMA HEALTH PROFESSIONAL'S CONFERENCE

Location:  
Sofitel Sydney -  
Wentworth

SAVE THE DATE  
27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> March

REGISTER TODAY!

### Register NOW!

Scan the QR code to register today.  
Call 1800 953 081 or email [nurse@lymphoma.org.au](mailto:nurse@lymphoma.org.au)



## The 2026 National Lymphoma Health Professional's Conference

Registrations are now OPEN.

For Nurses and Health Care Professionals

Friday 27th - Saturday 28th March 2026

Location: Sofitel Wentworth, Sydney

 [Find our more information and register here.](#)

## University-level qualifications

Many nurses are now completing postgraduate studies, obtaining certificates, diplomas, and even Masters and PhDs! Reach out to your local institutions/universities to find out what courses they provide.

Here are a few options:

- **Graduate Certificate in Cancer Nursing – Australian College of Nursing**

Specialist qualification in cancer oncology nursing – focuses on evidence-based practice, policy, cultural safety, and leadership.  
January and July intakes.

 [Australian College of Nursing – course details](#)

- **Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Registered Nurse Prescriber) – University of Canterbury (UC Online)**

NZQF level 8, includes pathophysiology and prescribing practicum over ~2 years part-time. Strong relevance for oncology nurses involved in SACT prescribing.

 [UC Online PGDipNurs – course details](#)

- **Graduate Certificate in Nursing – Ara Institute of Canterbury**

Level 7, flexible part-time delivery with optional modules including:  
Cancer Nursing 1: Understanding Cancer  
Cancer Nursing 2: Management.

 [Ara Graduate Certificate in Nursing – course details](#)

## Regional and online development

There are a range of different organisations that provide online learning. We have listed a few of these that may be of interest to your clinical role to explore further.

- **Palliative Care Education Programme 2025 – Nurse Maude (Christchurch)**

Offers workshops in syringe driver competency, foundations in palliative care, and care of caregivers.  
Free modules blending online and face to face learning.

 [Palliative Care Education Programme](#)

## Podcasts

- **Bloody Minded – Haematology podcast**

The “Bloody Minded” podcast is a haematology-focused educational series created by a group of Australian haematology registrars known as the Bloody Minded Crew. This is a light-hearted and fun approach to understanding complex aspects of haematology practice (with some light-hearted banter). Each episode tackles a specific haematology topic, often featuring guest experts.

Recent topics include:

- Running on fumes – approach to pancytopenia
- PlateLOTS-approaching thrombocytosis
- A PerPLEXing Journey

*Listen on: Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Podash*

- **Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) podcast**

A weekly series that dives deep into the world of oncology nursing. Each episode features expert conversations on topics ranging from clinical practice and pharmacology to patient care and professional development. This series is extensive and to date has released over 370 episodes!

Topics include:

- The science behind nursing burnout and compassion fatigue
- Pharmacology 101: VEGF Inhibitors

*Listen on: Apple Podcasts, Spotify and YouTube Music.*



## EVIQ updates:

**New resources released:**

- **Bispecific Antibody rapid learning module**

to support the safe and effective delivery of bispecific antibodies – advancing treatment in cancer care.

 [Be sure to check it out](#)

- **Module 2 available: Radiation Oncology Nursing Course**

Learn about the side effects of radiation therapy and their management with the newly released eLearning, designed to support development of knowledge and the clinical skills required to safely care for patients receiving radiation therapy.

Module 2 of the course has a focus on the side effects of radiation therapy and their management covering:

- how radiation therapy treatment-related side effects occur
- defining acute, subacute and late treatment-related side effects of radiation therapy, and identify when these occur
- differentiating between local and general treatment-related side effects
- identifying assessment criteria which support the grading of treatment-related side effects •
- identifying factors which may impact on the risk and severity of treatment-related side effects.

 [The course is now available and is accompanied by a recorded information session webinar.](#)

- **EVIQ rapid listening podcasts:**

Learning made easy on the go! Don't miss these EVIQ rapid learning podcasts which can be found on Apple podcasts, or Spotify:

Topics include:

- Hypersensitivity reaction
- Managing CIED and Radiation Therapy and CIEDs
- Cytokine release syndrome
- Metastatic spinal cord compression

 [Start listening here](#)



## Workshops boost national regimen knowledge

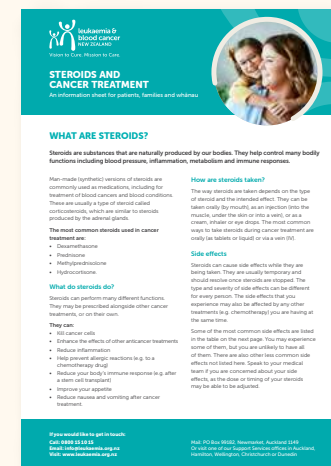
**CanShare's ACT NOW programme** continues rolling out the SACT Regimen Library across all tumour streams, with 800 regimens now published. Workshops running May -September 2025 aim to deepen nurses' familiarity with systemic anti cancer therapy, including the integration of newly funded medicines.

[CanShare's ACT NOW programme](#)

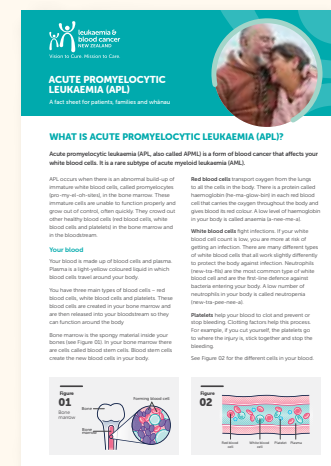
## Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand

Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand provide a suite of educational resources for both healthcare professionals, patients and their Whanau.

**Recent fact sheet updates include:**



[LBCNZ Steroid and cancer treatment](#)



[LBCNZ Acute Promyelocytic Leukaemia](#)

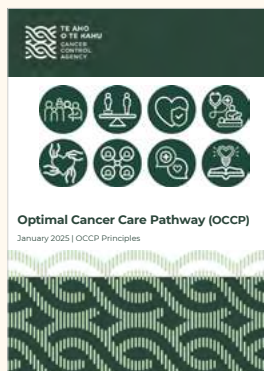
## Te Aho o Te Kahu - Optimal Cancer Care Pathways

Te Aho o Te Kahu has released updated Optimal Cancer Care Pathways (OCCPs) in 2025, which emphasise:

- Person and whānau-centred care
- Equity-led approaches
- Multidisciplinary and coordinated care
- Supportive care and timely communication

These pathways are designed to reduce disparities and improve outcomes, especially for Māori and rural communities. You might encourage nurses to familiarise themselves with these principles and integrate them into practice.

[Te Aho o Te Kahu - Optimal Cancer Care Pathways](#)



## University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Genetic Testing for Breast Cancer

NEW FREE SHORT COURSE:

- Audience: Oncology health professionals (including New Zealand), aligned with recent Medicare changes
- Content: Treatment-focused breast cancer mainstream genetic testing – covering informed consent, result interpretation, and referral guidelines – developed by cancer genetic counsellors and clinical geneticists
- Format: Self-paced and interactive, evidence-based, includes a UTS Open certificate

[Free access - learn more and enrol here](#)

# Would you like to contribute an article for publication in Cancernet? If so, we would love to hear from you!

## GUIDELINES FOR Contributing to Cancernet...

### Why contribute? Why publish?

- To share knowledge
- To advance your field of practice
- To disseminate key findings or opinions
- To contribute to policy debates

### Submitting your work

- Articles should be submitted in Microsoft Word via email to [cancernursesnz@gmail.com](mailto:cancernursesnz@gmail.com)
- Acknowledgement of receipt of your submission will then
- Acknowledgement of receipt of your submission will be sent by email.

### Introduction

Cancernet is a newsletter that is published three times a year by the New Zealand Nurses Organisation Cancer Nurses College. Cancernet aims to inform and encourage nurses managing people with cancer to share opinion, resources, clinical practice and continuing professional development.

### Word count

Opinion articles should be between 700-1000 words long. However, clinical-based articles and literature reviews and advanced study articles, these can range from between 1,500 and 3,500 words, including references.

### Types of articles

All types of articles are welcomed...

- *Opinion*
- *Clinical practice*
- *Case studies*
- *Continuing practice development*
- *Literature review*
- *Advanced study write-ups (e.g. BSc or MSc)*

### Illustrative and images

Authors must obtain permission for the use of illustrative material or images and ensure that this material is labelled and captioned.

### Referencing

A recognised referencing system to be used. If the reference list is long, the reference list is available on request from the author.



## Important dates for your diary

Click on the titles below to link to relevant website...

### Lymphoma Summit NZ 2025

3-4 October, 2025

Napier Conference & Events Centre

### Cancer Nurses College BGM

9 October, 2025

The Dunedin Centre, 1 Harrop Street, Dunedin

### NZSO Conference 2025

9-11 October, 2025

Ōtepoti Dunedin


### Lymphoma Australia Conference 2026

27-28 March, 2026

Sofitel Wentworth, Sydney

## Financial assistance for professional development

If you have been a member of CNC for a minimum of 2 years, you can access financial support for education...

 **CNC Education Grant**  
(maximum grant of \$750) considered quarterly for cancer nursing-related education and workshops.

• **CNC Roche Scholarship**  
(\$2000) for postgraduate study.

## THE CANCER NURSES COLLEGE 2025 COMMITTEE



**Shelley Shea**

Chair



**Laura Ledger**

Treasurer and Grants



**Becky Upston**

Facebook, Social Media, Website & Membership



**Edith Paulsen**

Cancernet, Facebook, Website, Social Media & Membership



**Heather Bustin**

Education



**Janitina Witchall**

Cancernet



**Liv Collier**

TBC



**Andrea Reily**

TBC

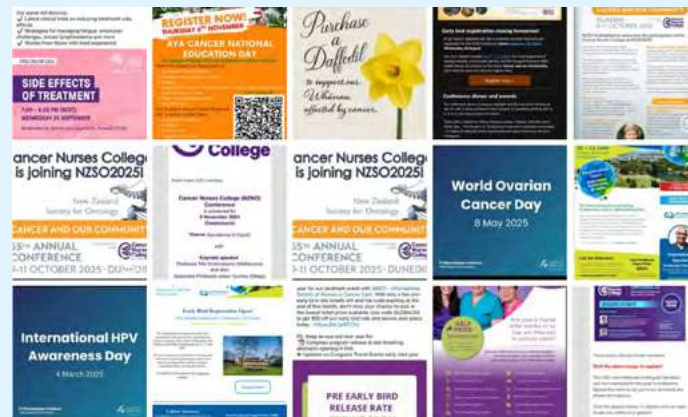


**Anne Brinkman**

Professional Nursing Advisor, NZNO



The CNC committee invites all members to join us on our Facebook group...



Stay informed on upcoming opportunities for professional development + ask questions, share thoughts, ideas, research, innovative practice, or concerns.

Click the 'Join Group' button and one of our lovely Admins will add you. Easy as that! Hope to see you there!

 Visit the CNC Facebook page...

If you have an interesting article, case study, publication or event you would like published, please email us (Attention: Cancernet Editors), and we will include if appropriate.

Email us at:  [cancernursesnz@gmail.com](mailto:cancernursesnz@gmail.com)