TE AHO
O TE KAHU
CANCER
CONTROL
AGENCY

Update - June 2023

Kia ora koutou

It has been a busy time at Te Aho o Te Kahu, the Cancer Control Agency. Throughout the health system reform, our purpose has remained constant – we continue to lead and unite across the cancer continuum, sharing system-level cancer expertise and providing high-quality advice to both the Government and health entities.

As the structures and functions of Te Whatu Ora and Te Aka Whai Ora bed in, we have been making connections and providing advice to place cancer care and equitable outcomes front of mind in the design of the new health system. As Acting Chief Executive, I have been working closely with the chief executives of the other health agencies, to ensure we are making cohesive, strategic progress towards a joined-up health system. Te Aho o Te Kahu kaimahi are engaging with Te Whatu Ora on many levels, including working alongside clinical leadership and those responsible for service delivery at district, regional and national levels.

This year we have also met in-person with many of our key advisory groups, including:

- Hei Āhuru Mōwai, Māori Cancer Leadership Network

- He Ara Tangata, Consumer Reference Group

- National Clinical Assembly

- Radiation Oncology, Medical Oncology and Haematology Working Groups

- National Bowel and Lung Cancer Working Groups.

These groups provide essential input to much of our work programme, and I thank all those that contribute their time and expertise.

There are also many health professionals and whānau with cancer who directly feed into our work - providing a vital connection to what is happening on the ground. Our four regional hubs continue to provide an important conduit to the districts and the work happening on the frontline. My thanks to all those involved, your input is an essential ingredient in delivering our vision of fewer cancers, better survival and equity for all.

I hope you enjoy reading about our people, partners, and work in this update. If this email has been forwarded from a colleague, you can sign up to receive updates directly here. If you have any questions please email info@teaho.govt.nz and we will get back to you.

Ngā mihi

Nicola Hill, Acting Chief Executive Te Aho o Te Kahu

Hearing the voice of whānau Māori

On 9 March Te Aho o Te Kahu released three reports (each in te reo Māori and English) from the series of community hui we hosted in 2021. To better understand the lived experiences of whānau Māori, we partnered with mana whenua and local health organisations to hold 13 community hui across the motu. Collectively, the Agency spoke with more than 2,500 whānau Māori. This included patients and whānau, as well as Māori working in cancer care and the wider health and social sectors. We acknowledge the whānau who shared their taonga at the hui – and the barriers, challenges and mamae that has been experienced in so many cancer journeys.

Since we released the reports we have been working hard to ensure that their insights are available to be embedded in work programmes - not only the work of Te Aho o Te Kahu, but also the many agencies involved in the health system reform. Te Whatu Ora and Te Aka Whai Ora have both indicated they want to use the learnings from the hui series in their commissioning and service delivery mahi.

If you would like to find out more about the reports and how you can utilise their insights in your work please email us at info@teaho.govt.nz.

Pancreatic Cancer Quality Improvement

As part of our ongoing work to support the improvement of cancer care and outcomes we have produced the Pancreatic Cancer Quality

Improvement Monitoring Report 2023, along with two supporting documents. The monitoring report analyses nine pancreatic cancer quality performance indicators which have been identified as important to improving pancreatic cancer treatment and care in Aotearoa New Zealand.

In May, the Minister of Health approved the draft reports to be sent to Te Whatu Ora districts to provide them with the opportunity to review the data and provide feedback. After our Quality Improvement Team has incorporated the feedback, we will publish the reports on our website and email them to the wider sector. We are meeting with Te Whatu Ora to work through how the report recommendations can be used to improve the experiences and outcomes of those with pancreatic cancer across the motu.

Disability and Cancer project underway

We want to work with disabled people, and the disability sector to build trusted, whānau-centred relationships to drive the equitable delivery of cancer services to disabled whānau in Aotearoa.

There is limited research on the experience of cancer for disabled New Zealanders, but we know disabled people can experience poorer health outcomes. The Disability and Cancer project will help build our knowledge of available data and evidence, and gather insights on the experience of disabled people with cancer.

We recently ran an Expressions of Interest (EOI) process to bring disabled people with experience of cancer and/or the health system into the project team. We were overwhelmed by the response – many applying because they had received the EOI in one of the alternative formats (for example braille or New Zealand Sign Language video, as shown above). We will be appointing three advisors to the project and will share more information on the Disability and Cancer project webpage as we progress.

Cancer Services Planning work

We are currently undertaking a large, proactive programme of work to transform the way cancer treatment services are provided. We aim to support national access to high-quality care by providing guidance to commissioning entities on how treatment and support services should be organised to achieve optimal, equitable cancer outcomes.

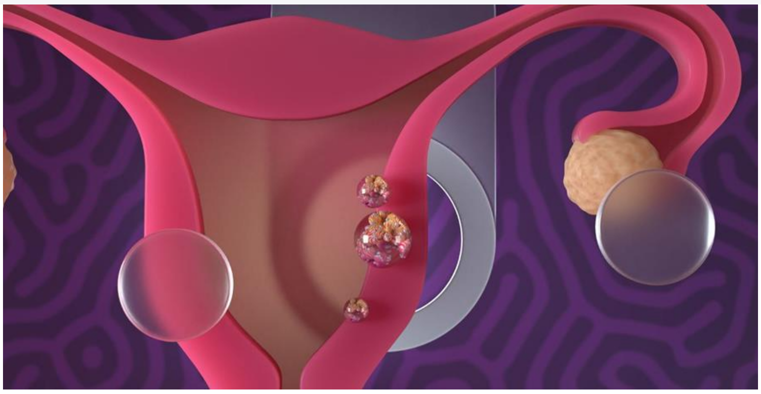
Project teams are currently connecting with the sector to test their models of care and planning documents. Feedback so far has been very positive – highlighting that the thinking behind these models is robust, equitable, whānau centred and practical.

CanShare

CanShare is the new national health informatics platform the Data, Monitoring and Reporting team (DMR - pictured above) are developing to allow accurate cancer data to be shared across the motu. The CanShare programme supports decision-making at the point of care. We are thrilled that Dr Linda Bird, of SNOMED International fame, has joined DMR to work on CanShare.

So far CanShare has published 72 reference sets to the New Zealand Health Terminology Server - doubling the number of sets now available to the sector. Great work is also underway in the development of HISO (Health Information Standards Organisation) Standards to describe CanShare.

You can find out more about CanShare by signing up to their regular updates. You can read the CanShare March 2023 update here.



Early detection for gynaecological cancers

Recognising a need for more information for health professionals around gynaecological cancers, we commissioned Best Practice Advocacy Centre New Zealand (bpacnz) to write a series of educational articles on best practice for early detection and referral of five gynaecological cancers, including ovarian and endometrial cancers.

The purpose of these articles is to educate health care professionals working in primary and community care so diagnosis can occur at the earliest possible stage – improving outcomes and saving lives. You can read the bpac articles on gynaecological cancers here - along with early detection information on other cancers including bowel, prostate and lung.

Our People

An update on our leadership

Te Kawa Mataaho | Public Service Commission are continuing the process of recruiting for a new Chief Executive. In the meantime we are progressing our agreed work programme, with its strong focus on equity, and supporting the health reforms to deliver better outcomes for whānau with cancer.

We said haere rā to Michelle Mako, our Equity Director in January. Michelle is now Director, Hauora Māori Tūmatanui in Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui, the Public Health Agency. Michelle was central in the establishment of Te Aho o Te Kahu and continues to strive for better health outcomes for Māori in her new role.

In April we appointed Sasha Webb (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahu, Pākehā) as our new Equity Director. Sasha had been acting since January and came to the role fully engaged in our equity mahi - having previously been a senior member of our Equity Team. Sasha led the recent publication of our reports from the Māori Community Hui Series.

We also welcomed Bridget Kerkin as Manager of the Clinical Advisory Team (CAT) in May. Bridget is an experienced health sector clinician and manager, and comes to us from Te Whatu Ora. Bridget has been an expert advisor to the Health and Disability Commission, ACC and Office of the Coroner, as well as a Principal Lecturer in Midwifery.

Changes for Hei Āhuru Mōwai

Our partner Hei Āhuru Mōwai, Māori Cancer Leadership Network, farewelled their Tumuaki (CEO), Moahuia Goza (Ngāti Kauwhata, Ngāti Matakore, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Unu), in April. Moahuia is following her passion for rongoā and mātauranga Māori and has handed the reigns over to Cindy Dargaville (Ngāti Maniapoto, Waikato, Te Rarawa).

Te Aho o Te Kahu hosted a poroporoaki (farewell) for Moahuia and presented her with a kahu (pictured above), in gratitude for all she has done to help build the Agency, articulate our identity and support our work as a 'critical friend.' We look forward to working alongside Cindy as she settles into her new role.

New members for He Ara Tangata, Consumer Reference Group

Our consumer reference group is an integral part of the Te Aho o Te Kahu whānau. Members meet quarterly to review work and to offer insights and direction going forward. Members sit in many of our project teams to make sure we stay true to our value of being whānau-centred.

Earlier this year we farewelled six founding members of He Ara Tangata: Henare Kani (Chair - Rangitāne, Ngāti Kahungunu, Tuwharetoa), Diana Ayling, Christine Sapwell, Ngaroimata Reid (Ngātiwai, Te Rarawa, Ngāti Kahungunu, Rangitāne), Libby Burgess and Marj Allen. We appreciate the commitment and expertise they have shared over the last two years.

At our first meeting for the year, on 8 March (pictured above), we welcomed Vonda Nepia, Therese Handscomb, Hoani Hakaraia (Ngāti

Raukawa ki te Tonga, Ngāti Wehi Wehi, Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Pikiao), Roz Tuitama, Andy Dickerson, and Frances Harnell. We are grateful to incumbent member Viv Hahipene (Ngāi Tai, Ngāi Te Hapū, Ngāti Awa, Te Aitanga a Māhaki, Te Patuwai, Tūhourangi) for stepping into the role of Chair. With another meeting coming up this month, we continue to work together with He Ara Tangata to achieve our goal of fewer cancers, better survival and equity for all.

In brief

Te Aho o Te Kahu Senior Project Manager, Alex Dunn discusses the Radiation Oncology Collection in the most recent edition of Health Informatics New Zealand e-magazine.

Central Hub Manager Cushla Lucas is interviewed in Leukaemia Today about what the new health system means for whānau with blood cancer.

As a follow-up to our Lung Cancer Webinar last November, the Goodfellow Unit has released Lung Cancer: 8 symptoms for rapid diagnosis to help health professionals to detect lung cancer earlier.

Consultation on the Melanoma Quality Statements is open until 30 June. For further information see the MelNet website.

Manatū Hauora has released its Cancer web tool, presenting data about cancer diagnoses and deaths. This replaces the annual excel spreadsheets of data sets previously released and the tool will be updated each year.

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✉ Forward

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