

ELECTION REQUEST FROM CANGO

CANGO, an alliance of New Zealand's leading cancer charities, calls for our political parties to take urgent action on cancer, starting with the four most critical changes needed.

75,000 New Zealanders will be diagnosed with cancer during the next term of government. They, along with the thousands living with cancer today, deserve world class health care to improve their quality of life and increase their chances of survival. Their whānau, communities, and employers deserve this too.

But that is far from possible in New Zealand today, with vastly inequitable experiences, timeframes and outcomes, particularly for Māori and Pasifika and those already in financial distress; a slow, unfair and under-funded medicines access system in Pharmac; critical workforce issues without urgent solutions; and a lack of investment in innovation, research and clinical trials to move us forward.

CANGO wants to change that and for cancer to be a 'good news' story this election, with our politicians galvanising around solutions like they did for COVID-19.

CANGO's four critical solutions for the next government to act on.

1. Fund Pharmac \$300million p/a to establish and implement a fast-track assessment and funding scheme for cancer medicines, within 12 months.
2. Require baseline funding of 0.01% in the government's health budget for clinical research, implement trials New Zealand wide and embed cancer research into health sector KPIs, so that New Zealanders can benefit from research-led care.
3. Update and implement a fully funded National Travel Assistance Scheme that is straight-forward, fair and fit-for-purpose by the end of 2024 to minimise the financial impact of cancer and ensure people can access the treatment they need no matter where they live in New Zealand.
4. Develop, publish and action an integrated workforce plan for all cancers that is future focused while addressing urgent needs, ensuring that a lack of capacity or advancement is not causing harm and resulting in unnecessary deaths.

About CANGO

CANGO (Cancer Non-Governmental Organisations) is an alliance of prominent New Zealand cancer charities including:

- Breast Cancer Foundation NZ
- Bowel Cancer New Zealand
- Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand
- New Zealand Gynaecological Cancer Foundation
- Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand
- Unicorn Foundation New Zealand
- Melanoma New Zealand
- Lung Foundation New Zealand
- Gut Cancer Foundation
- Cancer Society of New Zealand

The group was formed in 2007 in an effort to increase collaboration among cancer charities.

Chief Executives of member organisations meet quarterly to discuss key issues facing the sector; to meet and share information with representatives from Te Aho o Te Kahu, the Ministry of Health and others working in cancer-related areas; and to work together on specific initiatives that reflect the shared goal of all members to reduce the incidence and impact of cancer on New Zealand and New Zealanders.

