

# CANGO

## 2017 ELECTION POLICY

More than 22,000 New Zealanders will be diagnosed with cancer this year. The survival and quality of their lives depends on the successful implementation of sound, evidence-based health policy. It is acknowledged that not every cancer is preventable or curable, so access to palliative care in a range of settings is also essential.

An ageing population means the incidence of cancer grows exponentially, especially as the over 65s continue to be the group with the highest rates of cancers requiring treatment. This has multiple impacts on the individual diagnosed, their families and friends, as well as the New Zealand health budget and broader economy.

New Zealand is still behind other comparable nations on rates of early diagnosis, and we need to ensure equitable access to care and reduce the inequalities for Maori and Pasifika.

CANGO is encouraging all political parties to commit to cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, research and survivorship as key policy planks of your health policy for the 2017 election.

### We ask New Zealand's politicians to:

#### Achieve equity for all New Zealanders across the cancer care continuum by:

- Ensuring all New Zealanders have access to diagnosis, care, treatment and support, irrespective of location and ethnicity
- Addressing disparities such as differences in care, treatment and support received by Maori and those with co-morbidities
- Ensuring our rural communities have access to preventative services and screening, specialist and multi-disciplinary care
- Broadening training and learning opportunities for rural-based medical practitioners
- Responding to a rapidly changing environment by ensuring a faster decision making process by PHARMAC
- Addressing travel and support issues for those who live rurally, those moving across DHB boundaries or are at distance from provision of diagnostic or treatment services
- Providing dentures for all cancers when teeth are removed before or after chemotherapy and radiation therapy
- Ensure a seamless transition between public and private cancer services

## 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 and the 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 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.



## **Develop and communicate a broad, robust cancer strategy and workforce plan by:**

- Sharing cancer strategy with the NGOs and involving us as key contributors to the care and support of people, their whanau and support networks
- Ensuring there is adequate skilled workforce to fulfil diagnosis, treatment and psycho-social needs including living with and beyond a cancer diagnosis
- Publishing workforce plans across all cancer types
- Working with the NGO sector to ensure coverage across DHB, private and NGO sectors involving all in the cancer care continuum
- Addressing current and upcoming workforce shortages - proactively not just reactively
- Ensuring appropriate funding for multidisciplinary team meetings for all patients with stage 3 and 4 cancers

## **Increase access and investment in clinical trials and investigator-led trials and research by:**

- Addressing inequity of access to trials and participation in research across DHBs, especially by location
- Addressing inequity of access to trials and participation in research across DHB boundaries, especially by ethnicity
- Requiring DHBs to report on patient access and inclusion in trials
- Requiring DHBs to broaden consumer involvement in the development of trials and research
- Ensuring other barriers to investigator-led trials are minimised, e.g. excessive internal cost structures within DHBs
- Increasing central government investment for the purposes of trials and research

## **Recognise innovation and moves toward personalised treatment of cancer by:**

- Broadening funding for targeted therapies and personalised treatments
- Developing a dedicated fund within the PHARMAC model for these types of therapies, treatments or medicines
- Ensuring equitable access to new therapies and treatments for metastatic disease including new innovative drugs

## **Address ongoing needs for those living beyond cancer by:**

- Providing increased access to psycho-social services
- Improving support around benefit and employment rights, including financial support for families and the need to relocate for treatment
- Improving access to supplementary therapies, equipment and services that will assist patients to maintain and improve their quality of life.

## **Improve data to ensure effective management and planning of cancer services by:**

- Improving the data integrity of the cancer register
- Extending the collection of quality clinical data and include genomic data (the key to future targeted treatments) across all cancer streams
- Ensuring registries enable a model of care for cancer management across all services

## **Reduce modifiable risk factors for cancer by:**

- Increasing proportions of New Zealanders eating a healthy and balanced diet, and supporting programmes and policy that promote this
- Reducing the harmful use of alcohol (by implementing the WHO Global Strategy)
- Promoting physical activity, by developing and implementing sustainable policies and actions
- Reducing New Zealanders exposure to environmental and occupational cancer risk (such as UV radiation and asbestos)
- Restating their commitment to the Smokefree 2025 goal and continued commitment to tobacco control policy that puts the health of the nation and its people first, including increased investment in smoking cessation.

## **Address palliative care needs of an ageing population by:**

- Investing in resourcing, training and education for the health workforce to ensure all New Zealanders get the care they need in the setting of their choice
- Committing to additional funding for palliative care needs

