

Visit briefing

Meeting with the Southern Cancer Society

Date due to MO:	24 October 2025	Date of Visit:	29 October 2025
Security level:	IN CONFIDENCE	Health Report number:	H2025074282
To:	Hon Minister Simeon Brown – Minister of Health		

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Janfrey Doak	Manager, Southern Region, Cancer Control Agency	s 9(2)(a)
Nicola Hill	Deputy Chief Executive, Cancer Control Agency	

Visit briefing

Date due: 23 October 2025

To: Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health

Security level: IN CONFIDENCE **Health Report number:** H2025074282

About the Visit

Purpose To visit the Southern Cancer Society's purpose-built 50 room accommodation and support services facility for patients from the across the South Island receiving treatment in Christchurch

Event/visit details

Date: Wednesday 29 Oct 2025

Time: 10:15 – 10:45am

Venue: Canterbury Cancer Centre, 74 Langdon's Road, Christchurch

Attendees



Nicola Coom, Chief Executive, New Zealand Cancer Society

Nicola Coom is the Chief Executive (Tumu Whakarae) of the Cancer Society. In addition to her leadership role, she holds several governance positions as Chair, Trustee, Investor, and Advisor across various health and technology businesses. Nicola is an advocate for more ambitious cancer outcomes in New Zealand, a perspective shaped by both her professional and personal experience. With a genetic predisposition to cancer, she understands first-hand the profound impact the disease has on families and is committed to driving change for future generations.

Organisation Southern Cancer Society is a division of the New Zealand Cancer Society and supports cancer patients and whānau across most of the South Island excluding Nelson Marlborough. The Canterbury Cancer Centre is a Christchurch based facility of the Southern Cancer Society.

Ministry representatives Not attending - can attend at your request

Cancer Control Agency Representatives Not attending - can attend at your request

Other information None

Media No media will be in attendance

Background and context

Southern Cancer Society

1. The Cancer Control Agency has organised this visit to strengthen your understanding of how the charitable sector supports the delivery of cancer services across New Zealand. During the visit, it is expected the Cancer Society will want to discuss briefly their interest in lung cancer screening and the cervical cancer elimination strategy.
2. The Cancer Society is dedicated to reducing the impact of cancer throughout New Zealand. They provide support services for people affected by cancer, fund research and offer education on prevention and early detection.
3. The Southern Cancer Society delivers services throughout most of the South Island (excluding Nelson Marlborough) with staff and support available in numerous locations across the region. To enhance accessibility, community clinics are also held to provide face-to-face engagement.
4. One third of their referrals are self-referrals from patients. Others are from specialist services, primary care and community agencies.
5. Their services include accommodation, transport to treatment, coordination and navigation support, and provision of resources and information to help individuals and families navigate their cancer journey.

Canterbury Cancer Centre Facility

6. In 2023, the Southern Cancer Society opened the Canterbury Cancer Centre (CCC) in Christchurch. The CCC represents a \$22 million investment in a purpose-built facility, offering 50 rooms to accommodate patients undergoing treatment in the city.
7. Through a partnership arrangement with St George's Cancer Care (private hospital), the Southern Cancer Society provides additional on-site integrated support services at the CCC, including physiotherapy and nutritional support for patients.
8. A shuttle transports patients from the CCC to and from St Georges Cancer Care and Christchurch Hospital for treatment every 10 minutes, provided free of charge.
9. This collaboration is an example of how the private and charitable sectors can work together to enhance patient care.

Collaboration

10. The Chief Executives of the Cancer Control Agency and the Cancer Society meet regularly to discuss shared priorities and opportunities for collaboration.
11. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

12. Monthly meetings between the Cancer Control Agency's Southern Regional Manager, Janfrey Doak, and Southern Cancer Society's Head of Cancer Services, Craig Watson, ensure strong connections with the Cancer Control Agency's work in response to regional and national cancer priorities to improve experience of care and treatment for patients and their whānau.
13. The Prime Minister visited this facility in August to mark Daffodil Day (Report Number H2025071510).

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Nicola Hill
Deputy Chief Executive
Cancer Control Agency

Appendix 1: Run sheet

Time	Details	Minister's Office notes
10.15am	Arrival and Welcome Minister Brown will be welcomed by Nicola Coom, Chief Executive of the Cancer Society.	
10.15-10.30am	Meeting to discuss the following topics • Cervical Cancer Elimination Strategy • Lung Cancer Screening	
10.30-10.45am	Guided tour of the Canterbury Cancer Centre A walkthrough of the facility, with an opportunity for the Minister to informally connect with any guests present.	
10.45am	Depart	