

Event Briefing

Opening of St George's Cancer Care Centre - Nelson

Date due to MO: 19 March 2025 **Date of event:** Early April 2026 TBC

Security level: IN CONFIDENCE **Health Report number:** H2026079861

To: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister
Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
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Janfrey Doak	Manager Southern Region, Cancer Control Agency	

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About the Event

Purpose To open St George's Cancer Care Centre - Nelson

Event details Date: Early April, exact date to be confirmed
Time: 1.30-2.15pm
Venue: 9 Bail Street, Stoke, Nelson 7041 (See Appendix 1 for map)

Expected attendees **St Georges Hospital Cancer Care Centre - Christchurch based representatives**



Blair Roxborough – Chief Executive Officer, St George's Hospital,
Blair has been with St George's Hospital since January 2021.



Dr Jim Edwards – Clinical Director, Medical Oncologist, St Georges Cancer Care



Caroline Stark – General Manager, St George's Cancer Care

St Georges Cancer Care Clinicians - Nelson based representatives



Dr Kate Gregory – Medical oncologist
Dr Gregory is a Nelson-based oncologist who will co-lead the Centre, and Co-Medical Director of the Cancer Society,



Dr Anna Wojtacha – Medical oncologist
Dr Wojtacha is Nelson-based oncologist who will co-lead the Centre.



Health NZ, Nelson Marlborough District representatives

Johanne (Jo) Gibbs - Interim Group Director of Operations for Nelson Marlborough District.



Shelley Shea – Head of Department, Oncology and Haematology, Nelson Hospital

We understand that the Mayor of Nelson, Hon Dr Nick Smith, and the MP for Nelson, Rachel Boyack, are also likely to be in attendance.

Organisation

St George's Cancer Care Centre in Christchurch is the South Island's largest private provider of cancer care offering medical oncology, radiation oncology and haematology services. Established in 2010, it operates as a joint venture between St George's Hospital with a group of Christchurch-based oncologists.

Agency representatives

Nicola Hill, Acting Chief Executive, Cancer Control Agency – TBC once date confirmed

Other information

Both the Prime Minister and Minister of Health have been invited to officially open the Centre and give a short speech (approx. 5 minutes), after which there will be a tour of the facility.

As the date for the event has not yet been confirmed, a full run sheet for the event is not yet available.

A draft speech for the Prime Minister is attached as Appendix 2.

A draft speech for the Minister of Health is attached as Appendix 3.

Media

Media are expected to attend.

Background and context

St George's Cancer Care Centre - Nelson

1. St George's Cancer Care is establishing a private specialist medical oncology and haematology service in Nelson, providing access to care and treatment for patients through insurance or individual payment, in Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough.
2. This private centre will initially operate three days per week, with the intent to expand up to five days per week as demand grows. The centre is designed to support 300 patients each year to receive cancer care closer to home, reducing travel, disruption and time away from family and support networks.
3. The centre will be led by two Nelson-based medical oncologists, supported by visiting Christchurch specialists and the wider St George Cancer Care multidisciplinary cancer team.
4. St George's Cancer Care Nelson are partnering with the Cancer Society and Nelson Hospice to provide cancer-related education and supportive services for patients and their whānau across the region. Patients will also have access to St George's Cancer Care funded supportive care service, including counselling, psychology, nutrition and physiotherapy.
5. The Nelson private centre aligns with regional and national health objectives, including improving access to care closer to where people live, reducing pressure on larger hospitals and supporting shared public-private delivery models.
6. The opening represents a \$1.2 million investment in Nelson's health infrastructure.

Health New Zealand Oncology Service delivery in the Nelson Marlborough District

7. Nelson and Wairau public hospitals provide medical oncology and haematology services.
8. Some Health NZ staff may work privately at the Nelson centre as well as Nelson Hospital.
9. Health NZ Nelson Marlborough District will work in partnership with St Georges Cancer Care where appropriate to ensure patients have access to safe care.
10. Shared care arrangements will enable patients to receive their funded treatments within the public service while accessing any unfunded therapies at the Nelson centre.
11. s 9(2)(g)(i)
12. Radiation oncology consultations will be available at St Georges Cancer Care Nelson. Patients requiring radiation treatment will continue to travel to Christchurch or Wellington Hospitals.

13. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

14. Redevelopment of Nelson Hospital reflects a significant investment in healthcare infrastructure, to meet the needs the region's growing and ageing population.

Access to new cancer medicines

15. Nelson Marlborough District have delivered an additional 527 infusions as a result of the Government's new cancer medicines investment. Plans to scope and establish requirements for expanded delivery of infusions in Golden Bay and Motueka, are an area of focus for Health NZ Nelson Marlborough District.

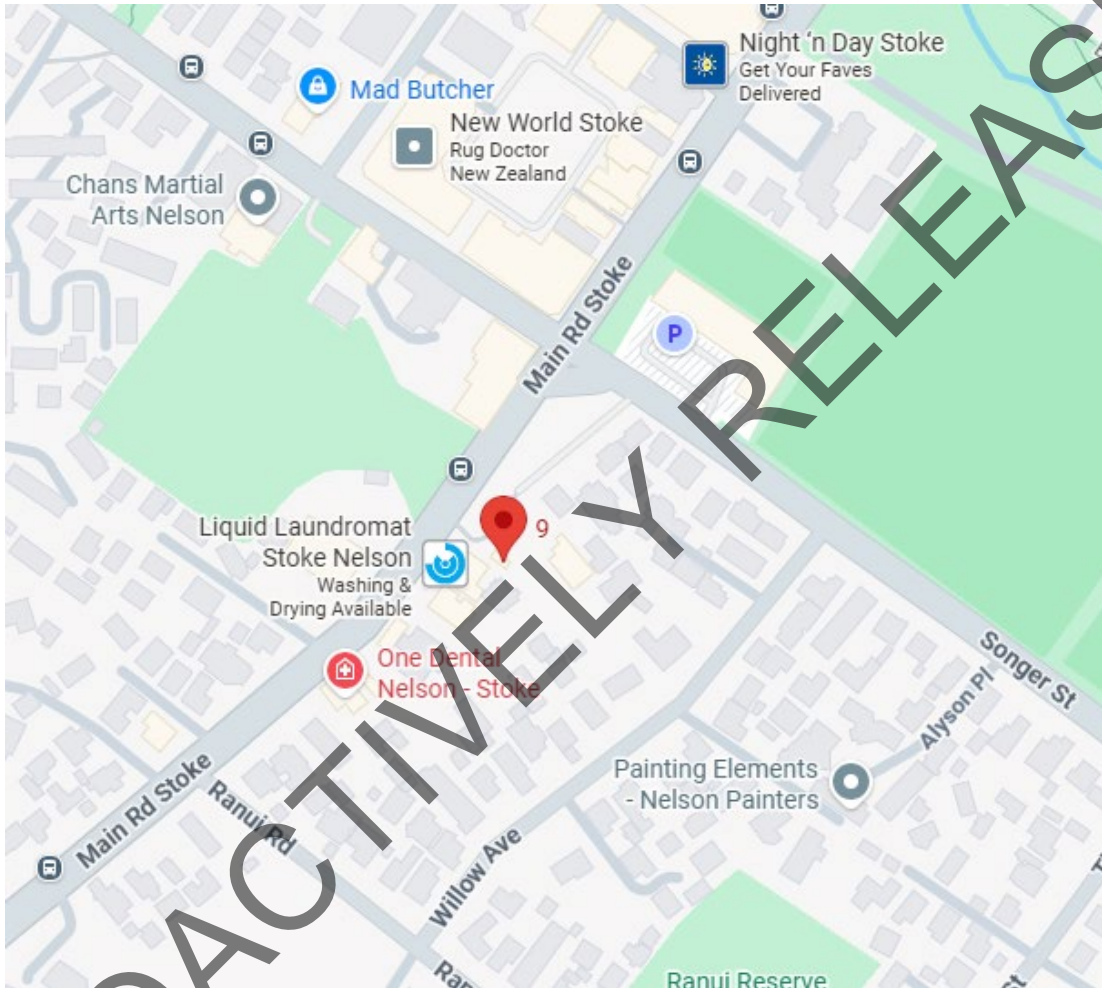
16. In July 2025, the government approved transitional funding for new cancer treatments in private hospitals, ensuring ongoing care for eligible patients and reducing transfers to public facilities, helping to ease pressure on public hospital infusion clinics.



Nicola Hill
Chief Executive
Cancer Control Agency

Appendix 1: Location Map

St George's Cancer Care Centre - Nelson
9 Bail Street, Stoke, Nelson 7011



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