



About Breast Cancer Foundation NZ: What we do, why and how we do it

Our vision: zero deaths from breast cancer in New Zealand

We have a single-minded mission to achieve this by pushing new frontiers in early detection, treatments and patient support. But we can't undertake this on our own. As a charitable trust, we depend on the generosity and support of donors, volunteers and corporate partners.

Our challenges are many...

The statistics tell the story:

- Every year, about 650 women in New Zealand die from breast cancer.
- Every year, 3,300 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed. That's nine every day, of whom one will be Māori. About 25 of those diagnosed are men.
- The mortality rate for Māori is 60% higher than that for non-Māori.
- New Zealand's breast cancer mortality rate is 20% higher than Australia's.

... and there are barriers in our way...

- Scientists still don't know what causes most breast cancers, or how to stop breast cancer spreading beyond the breast.
- Many cancers are being found too late to be treated successfully.
- The services around the country that district health boards provide (diagnosis, treatment and support) vary, resulting in inequalities
- New Zealand is falling behind other countries in introducing new drugs and other treatments to the public health system.

... but we're making a difference...

Through four key initiatives, Breast Cancer Foundation NZ is making a difference:

1. We're educating New Zealanders on, and raising awareness of, the importance of early detection. Survival rates are much higher when tumours are less than two centimetres in size.
2. We're investing in innovative research that could improve treatment and find cures.
3. We're improving the quality of life of people with breast cancer by offering support and funding counselling and rehabilitation.
4. We're advocating for more and better government funding and equal treatment for all.