Breast Cancer
Foundation NZ

Impact Report

2023/24

Working towards zero deaths from breast cancer, *together*

Welcome to Breast Cancer Foundation NZ's 2023/24 Impact Report

Contents

Justine Smyth CNZM
Chair

Message from the Chair:

Celebrating 30 years

As we mark the 30th anniversary of Breast Cancer Foundation NZ this year, it's a privilege to look back at what we've achieved with the support of compassionate Kiwis like you.

Thirty years ago, breast cancer was a taboo subject. Survival rates were very poor and there were limited treatment options. As a teenager, I carried my own family's secret of my mother's breast cancer diagnosis. This was my motivation to shine a light on the disease when I joined the Board of Trustees in 1996, two years after the charity's formation.

We've come such a long way since then. Breast cancer is more out in the open. With less stigma, we can talk more freely about it, and there is a community of support for patients and their families. We have free breast screening, and better treatments. The chance of surviving breast cancer if it's diagnosed early is now 92%.

We are turning the tide against breast cancer and we could not have achieved the results we've had without the support of a great many people. We thank each and every one of you for playing a part in improving the lives and outcomes for breast cancer patients. In particular, we'd like to pay tribute to our dear friend, founding Trustee and Patron, Dame Rosie Horton, who passed away last May. Breast Cancer Foundation NZ wouldn't be what it is today without Rosie's support and her legacy will live on as we continue steadfastly towards our vision of zero deaths.

We'd also like to acknowledge the many Trustees that have served on our Board over the last 30 years and our Medical Advisory Committee members, who have all volunteered their time and expertise to help save women's lives – thank you.

With much gratitude,
Justine

Ah-Leen Rayner
CEO

Message from the CEO:

Towards 'Zero Deaths'

2023/24 has been an outstanding year of progress, thanks to our committed supporters. This year, you've helped to achieve some massive advocacy wins, fund critical research projects, and deliver patient support services and life-saving education programmes.

You've enabled us to keep making record investments into our programmes. We've forged closer connections with decision makers and stakeholders and worked collaboratively with others to put the needs of breast cancer patients at the top of the agenda.

With a public health system under severe pressure and an ongoing gloomy economic outlook, big challenges lie ahead of us. But a new organisational strategy, along with new systems and technologies to support the delivery of our vision, put us in a strong position to make an even greater impact for Kiwis affected by breast cancer.

Looking ahead, through our four renewed programmes of work – early detection, innovation in screening, quicker diagnosis and optimal treatment – we will empower, provide support, research and innovate, and advocate for change. All to ensure breast cancer is caught earlier and treated better – so that no one has to die from it.

Whether you've hosted a Pink Ribbon Breakfast, taken part in a Pink Ribbon Walk, volunteered for the Pink Ribbon Street Appeal or NZ House & Garden Tours, held your own fundraiser, made a donation, partnered with us, or got involved in some other way – we'd like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your incredible generosity.

Please enjoy reading about the difference you've made this past year. Because all of our successes are yours to share.

Thank you again,
Ah-Leen

30 years ago, a group of doctors decided it was time to talk about breast cancer

Medical oncologist Dr Vernon Harvey has been with the Foundation from the start – he shares his insights about what has changed since then, and what still needs to be done to stop deaths from breast cancer.

I've been a medical oncologist in Auckland for 40 years and retired about five years ago, though I still do some work with Breast Cancer Foundation NZ and other charities.

How has breast cancer changed in the past 30 years?

Well, I suppose the most important thing is that the outcome is better for the majority of patients. It's changed in so many ways. We know so much more about breast cancer. There are different sorts of breast cancer, and they all need different treatment. Treatments have changed dramatically, surgery has got less extensive, radiation is becoming less extensive, the drugs available to try and get rid of the cancer have multiplied many times. So, I think all those things are important.

We know so much more about the about cancers and the genes that cause the cancers, and that allows us to develop new treatments to try and get rid of the cancer.

The fact that we now screen regularly, and pick up many more early breast cancers, that's very important because the earlier you pick up the cancer the easier it is to treat and the more likely the outcome is to be successful.

Even in those instances where we are unable to save lives, we can extend them in many cases so that people live a more comfortable life for longer.

What still needs to happen in order to reach the vision of zero deaths from breast cancer?

We have improved a lot in early breast cancer, so if we detect it early enough, and that's where mammography comes in particularly, then more people will survive, and fewer cancers will recur. That's been hugely successful, that's improved by somewhere between a third and 50% over the last 30 years or so.

The biggest problem is how we deal with advanced breast cancer, breast cancer that's spread beyond the breast.

How can donors and fundraisers support Breast Cancer Foundation NZ's vision of zero deaths?

Oh, they're absolutely vital. You can't do anything that Breast Cancer Foundation NZ is doing without funding.

We have achieved a lot; in early breast cancer, many, many more patients now survive. We need more understanding, more treatment and more funding.

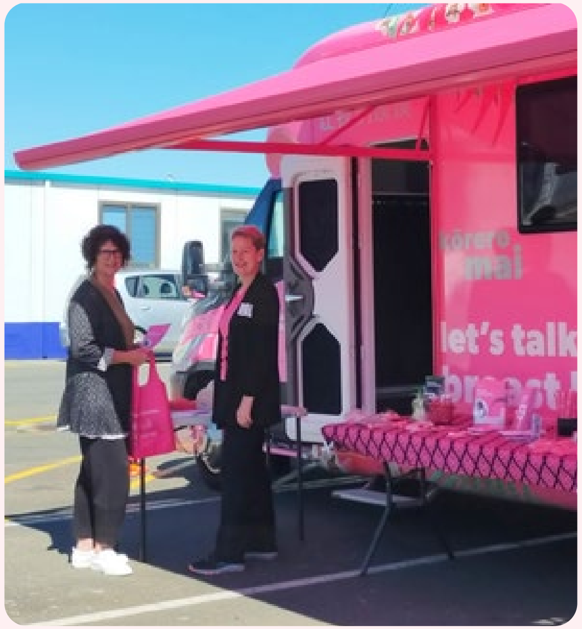
How your donations have made an impact this year

Pink Campervan tours resulted in:

6,708
people spoken to

114
women encouraged to see GP about concerning symptoms

140
women referred to BreastScreen Aotearoa for free mammograms



289,258
women signed up for a mammogram during our education campaigns

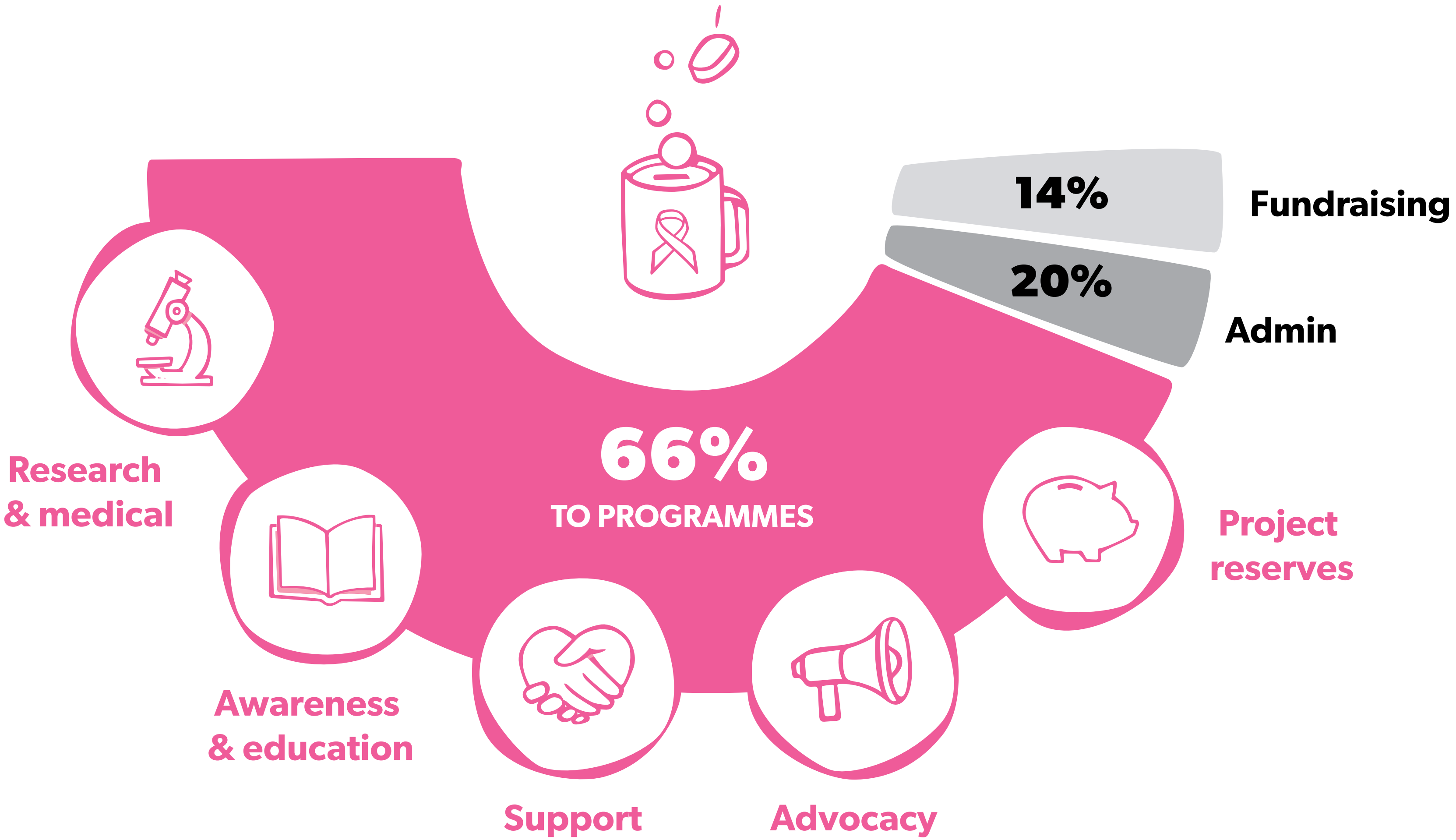
$1.9m
spent on research projects & Te Rēhita Mate Ūtaetae – Breast Cancer Foundation National Register

3,335
new people using our nurse specialist support services

9,306
calls to our Nurse Advice Line

2
big advocacy wins – breast screening age raise to 74 + Keytruda funded for triple negative breast cancer

What your support goes towards



The difference you've made in 2023/24

This year, more than 3,500 New Zealanders will have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Around 650 women die from the disease annually.

With your support, we have made remarkable progress in four key areas to make sure more Kiwis are diagnosed earlier and can access the right treatment at the right time.

Education to promote the importance of early detection

Detecting breast cancer early gives you the best chances for survival. This is the life-saving message your support enables us to spread through our education and health promotion work.

Taking the message to all corners

Thanks to supporters like you, our new Pink Campervan set off on its first tour in October 2023, making stops in the regions of Nelson, Marlborough, Buller, West Coast, Manawatū, Hawkes Bay, Lakes District and Waikato. Along the way, more than 6,700 people were given free breast health advice, encouraged to see their GP about concerning symptoms, and referred to BreastScreen Aotearoa’s free mammogram service. We converted BNZ’s gift of a former mobile banking bus into a second Pink Campervan, giving us the opportunity to visit hard to reach communities and speak with even more New Zealanders.

Connecting and upskilling

Our nurse educators had a strong focus on reaching rural communities as they held important breast health conversations with around 1,600 people at Fieldays. They also connected with nearly 600 health professionals at conferences and visited 43 GP practices to upskill the primary care workforce on breast health education.

Reaching millions

Having regular mammograms can save lives by detecting breast cancer early and one of the most impactful ways we can promote this message is through our nationwide education campaigns. Through two campaigns that ran on digital advertising, billboards and street posters around the country, millions of New Zealanders were given a reminder to book their mammograms.

Dayle's story:

An early diagnosis thanks to Breast Cancer Foundation NZ

Dayle, an ICU nurse at Auckland Hospital and a grandmother from Red Beach, was diagnosed with breast cancer in March 2023, at the age of 57. She saw a Breast Cancer Foundation NZ Change and Check poster in a Farmers changing room which made her realise she had one of the symptoms of breast cancer – this is what prompted her to see a GP. Fortunately, Dayle received an early diagnosis which meant she could avoid the worst of treatment.

When I was at Farmers, I was trying on some clothes in the dressing rooms. I happened to look across at the door and there was a poster about women and changes in their breasts.

I'd always assumed that I would feel a lump if I had a breast cancer. The poster talked about changes and shape of breasts, and nipple shape and colour. I suddenly realised I fitted into one of those categories.

From there I saw my GP, my GP made a referral, and I went to Auckland Breast Care and had a high-resolution mammogram and an ultrasound.

Those came back all fine, but because the nipple was inverted, the specialist decided to refer me for an MRI scan. That's where the breast cancer was detected.

When I got the diagnosis, I was really shocked. I had presumed everything would be normal, and just thought it was one of those things that as you age, or gain weight and lose weight, that you will get changes in your breasts. I was quite shocked to know it was breast cancer.

I first had a partial mastectomy and when that had healed, I had radiotherapy. I was really lucky that it was detected early, it meant that I didn't have to have the full mastectomy. And my nodes were clear, so I didn't need chemotherapy. It was limited to the radiotherapy, which is a much more straightforward process.

If I hadn't seen the poster in Farmers, I think it would have probably been another year, at least six or eight months anyway, before I would have got round to having my routine mammogram. I was already overdue at that stage, and I thought I'd leave it for a few more months. Then it got into summer and things got busy with Christmas, and things came up one after another and I just didn't go.

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ does an amazing job with their education programmes. Things like the posters that are in the community, the Pink Ribbon Walks and Pink Ribbon Street Appeal.

It's easy just to fly under the radar and think breast cancer will happen to someone else and ignore things. The promotion of those simple things like the posters are just a reminder that you can't afford to wait for your mammograms. That actually, you need to be cognisant the whole year through.

> **I feel like I'm fortunate, as an older woman. I really feel for young mums who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. I had amazing support from Breast Cancer Foundation NZ. The money donated from Kiwis is so vital to that, but it's particularly vital for people who need more support and don't have family support around or have higher needs.**

Lauryn's story:

"Seeing the Pink Campervan was the push I needed to see a doctor"

Lauryn was diagnosed with breast cancer in April 2024, at the age of 57. The mother of five, who lives in rural Marlborough, had noticed a suspicious change in her breast. It was only thanks to a chance encounter with the nurse educators on our Pink Campervan that Lauryn was able to get an early diagnosis. Lauryn's story shows how the education and advice provided by our nurses truly does save lives.

I was driving into town for a cervical screening appointment and had been thinking about making a mammogram appointment too while I was there. I'd been feeling a strange twinge in my breast and had wondered whether it was worth getting checked out.

As I turned the corner, I saw a great big, bright pink campervan. It was parked up at Four Square, in the space where I usually park to buy my milk – you couldn't miss it. And I thought, well if that's not a sign then what is.

I went over and met the nurses in the campervan. I told them about the funny little twinge in my breast. No matter what bra I wore, it felt like it was digging in and when I lay on my side it was really uncomfortable. I said I didn't know if it was worth following up because I couldn't feel a lump. The nurses told me if it wasn't normal for me, I should see a doctor.

My doctor had a good look and feel, and she wasn't concerned. She told me to come back in four weeks if it was still bothering me. I waited two weeks, and I was still worried about it so I went back and insisted I should get a mammogram. I had learnt from the Breast Cancer Foundation NZ nurses that this wasn't my normal, so something had to be done about it.

A mammogram revealed a small but aggressive lump – I had a 5mm, grade 3 hormone positive tumour. No cancer was found in my lymph nodes, so I was lucky it hadn't spread. I was so thankful that I didn't need to lose my whole breast or have chemotherapy.

Seeing the Pink Campervan was the push I needed to see a doctor. Because I didn't have a lump, I didn't think much of the breast twinge. But when I saw the campervan, I knew I couldn't ignore the big shiny sign being waved right in my face. There was a reason for it being there.

I was up to date with my mammograms and wasn't due one for another year. So if I'd have left it until then, it probably would have been too late.

> **Until you end up affected by it, you don't think cancer will happen to you. But breast cancer is so widespread, the best thing if you are going to get it is to find out early. I want people to know what a difference it's made for me because it could also make a difference for them.**

Foodstuffs South Island's story:

"How Breast Cancer Foundation NZ helped us to champion breast cancer awareness in the workplace"

Last October, two staff members from Foodstuffs South Island, Kathryn and Primrose, organised a breast cancer awareness morning tea attended by 60 of the company's support centre team in Christchurch. The pair had both been through breast cancer themselves and they decided to sign up to Breast Cancer Foundation NZ's Pink For a Day campaign to promote the importance of early detection in the workplace, generate confidence around supporting colleagues affected by breast cancer, and raise funds for the Foundation.

Kathryn and Primrose both shared their breast cancer stories and Breast Cancer Foundation NZ's Head of Nursing and Community Outreach, Natalie James, was invited to run an education session about early detection and how to support those who've been diagnosed. Primrose explained why the event was so meaningful to her and Kathryn:

This event was a way for us to create a platform for education, solidarity and hope. We wanted to foster a sense of community in our workplace, while raising funds for research and patient support services.

The attendees were deeply moved by our personal stories, and we learnt so much from Natalie. We were so grateful to have Breast Cancer Foundation NZ's help to champion breast cancer awareness in the workplace.

Kathryn and I were both overwhelmed by how many of our colleagues felt comfortable enough to connect with us after the event, sharing their own stories of being impacted by breast cancer – either themselves directly, or through their family.

And it meant so much to us that the company was so supportive of the event. It was wonderful to have our CEO Mary be part of the conversation, and the company generously doubled the size of our donation to Breast Cancer Foundation NZ by matching the amount staff gave. It's a nice feeling to know our employer cares about a cause that we care so much about.

Mary Devine, CEO of Foodstuffs South Island, also shared her reflections on how this event made an impact on the business:

> **This was a truly inspiring event. For me personally, hearing from two of our team members share their personal experiences with breast cancer really highlighted the role we play as an employer in supporting our team when they're navigating difficult challenges. I know many in our team came away with useful practical knowledge around breast health and early detection of breast cancer.**
>
> **Since then, we've seen more people come forward with ideas on how we can drive greater awareness of other important health topics, such as menopause education. It's been great to see how the event has acted as a catalyst for getting our teams more engaged in open conversations about topics that touch the lives of so many of our team members, our whānau and our wider community.**

Research and medical projects to make advances in treatment

Your donations are helping to pioneer groundbreaking developments in the knowledge and treatment of breast cancer in Aotearoa.

Bringing experts together

In March 2024, our Breast Cancer InSIGhts conference in Wellington brought together more than 100 breast cancer specialists and nurses to share knowledge and the latest research on all aspects of diagnosis and treatment. International speakers and experts attended, including Dr Debra Ikeda, a professor of radiology at California's Stanford University. She helped us to advocate in the media for NZ women to be informed about their breast density through the national breast screening programme.

The power of data

Te Rēhita Mate Ūtaetae - Breast Cancer Foundation National Register is a rich database of health information from more than 45,000 people who've been diagnosed with breast cancer in NZ since 2000. By collecting comprehensive data on all aspects of breast cancer diagnoses, treatment and outcomes, Te Rēhita provides doctors and scientists the information needed to carry out research and improvements to treatment and care. Te Rēhita has been instrumental in the development of Te Aho o Te Kahu – The Cancer Control Agency's breast cancer quality performance indicator (QPI) project, which will track the performance of the health system against 10 aspects of breast cancer treatment. By providing the data and analysis for the development of the indicators, we're helping to drive improvements to breast cancer care.

Modernising surgery

You're playing a part in bringing a new surgical technique to NZ which gives doctors a more precise way to locate tumours, making the surgical process much easier for patients having breast conserving surgery. This new smart seed localisation technology will replace the outdated hookwire procedure and we're using our Register to collect pilot data that will provide the evidence hospitals need to invest in this new method.

Northland surgeon Dr Maxine Ronald on being awarded the Māori Breast Cancer Research Leadership Fellowship

Dr Maxine Ronald was named the inaugural Māori Breast Cancer Research Leadership Fellow. Breast Cancer Foundation NZ and Breast Cancer Cure awarded Dr Ronald $300,000 for a three-year fellowship with Hei Āhuru Mōwai Māori Cancer Leadership Aotearoa to work with researchers around the country to drive policy change and action, particularly in breast screening and diagnosis. The ultimate aim is to close the breast cancer survival gap between Māori and Pasifika women with non-Māori in NZ, and she explains why this work is so vital.

Kia ora
He uri ahau o Te Tai Tokerau.
Nō Ngā Puhi, Ngāti Wai, Ngāti Hine, Te Kapotai ōku iwi.
Ko Maxine Ronald toku ingoa.

My name is Maxine Ronald, I'm from Northland, and I am a general surgeon and breast surgeon in Whangārei.

Some of the things we know about breast cancer for Māori and for Pasifika women is that overall, Māori women in particular tend to have a higher incidence of breast cancer and also tend to die more from breast cancer than non-Māori women. And what we see in the breast screening population is the incidence of breast cancer in that age group, that 45- to 69-year-old age group, is about 45% higher for Māori than for non-Māori. But access to screening, or engagement with screening, for Māori has always been much lower.

We know from research that's been done a few years ago that if Māori women are diagnosed with breast cancer through the breast screening programme, they have the same outcomes as non-Māori for breast cancer, in terms of five-year mortality. So, it's critical that Māori women have access to screening, and screening that's provided in a culturally safe and culturally appropriate way.

Despite introduction of the faster cancer times in the public health system, Māori and Pasifika are still less likely to receive surgery in a timely manner and have delays in accessing their operations compared to non-Māori, and that's just in one example.

If you are diagnosed with a symptomatic breast cancer, where you detect a breast lump, the pathway into getting treatment for that is much more difficult and extended compared to the breast screening programme. Because you need to first of all recognise there's a breast lump and understand the significance of that, and then be able to see a GP to be referred to the hospital.

We know accessing GP's is a big problem at the moment. Primary health care is swamped and there's not enough GPs, so often it can take people weeks and weeks, if not months to see a GP. Then that referral needs to be triaged and there's also some inbuilt biases that can occur in the triage system, or it can be difficult to interpret what's coming through in the referral, so people may not be triaged as urgently as they should be. Then there's the whole access issue to the system and progressing through the system.

I'm grateful for the Māori Breast Cancer Research Leadership Fellowship, which is supported by Hei Āhuru Mōwai, Breast Cancer Foundation NZ and Breast Cancer Cure. It gives us the opportunity to spend some time to dive deep into some of these issues because, as a clinician, that's something that I'm very acutely aware of, seeing people who are diagnosed in the breast screening pathway and through the symptomatic pathway within the same clinical space, as it's sometimes quite difficult to reconcile. That's an area that I'm interested in looking at, and that we are currently incorporating into a wider Health Research Council grant programme to try and dive a bit deeper into that.

I'm hoping this will fill one part of the overall puzzle, or the overall kind of issue that surrounds breast cancer inequities for Māori. Because there are lots of people who are doing, or already have done, really amazing stuff in the community in that pre-diagnostic space. I think what I can bring is more knowledge and connections within the clinical space. But I'm definitely very mindful that we can't all operate in silos, we need to be connecting across all these different areas.

One specific area I want to look at with the fellowship is looking at the symptomatic pathway and diving deep into where those points of delays may occur along that pathway. Understanding what whānau Māori experiences of what being in that part of the system is like for them, and then looking at a feasibility study to investigate what it would be like if we invested resources into symptomatic pathways, so they have the same kind of structure and framework as the breast screening pathway.

There's the pre-diagnosis space, the diagnostic and investigation space, the treatment and then the survival space. It's critical that we link all of those spaces up together.

The evidence seems to be so strong around equitable outcomes for wāhine Māori diagnosed through the screening programme and really, that needs to be the key focus of any mahi, any efforts that are put into addressing breast cancer inequalities for Māori women. But that's not going to happen overnight and there will still always be people who are diagnosed through the symptomatic pathway. Arguably, people diagnosed through a symptomatic pathway have a later stage of disease than those who are diagnosed through the screening programme. So, I think what it will do is hopefully improve the equity of access to investigations and treatment, and obviously overall, we want to see equity of outcome as well.

Ultimately at the core of it, it's just unfair. There's no reason why Māori inherently should die more from any cancer, and in breast cancer in particular. It's not a foregone conclusion that we should do worse from breast cancer than non-Māori.

We need to be good Treaty partners, trying to work hard to ensure that everybody gets the access to the treatment they need in order to have the same outcomes as everybody else.

Having been diagnosed with breast cancer myself, I think I have a greater appreciation of what that whole breast cancer journey is like for women. I was very fortunate in my breast cancer journey that I had private health insurance, I knew people who were in this specialty, and I understood the information that was being given to me. I appreciate that for a lot of people who don't have that, that's a huge privilege I had, as well as being able to access top-line treatment that wasn't available through the publicly funded health system.

What I want for everybody, and particularly for wāhine Māori and Pasifika because they already have worse outcomes, is to have that same privilege that I had. I think that it's important that we're constantly critiquing ourselves and trying to improve the care that we're providing for women in Aotearoa with breast cancer. We can only do that through innovation and through research, and a lot of that's restricted in the public health system. So, we're reliant on generous sponsorship from benefactors who believe that, like many of us, we shouldn't necessarily have to die from breast cancer. We live in such an amazing time at the moment, with access to incredible technology, medication, and treatment. We should be optimising that and making sure that we're making the best of all these opportunities.

> **There's always hope, and breast cancer is largely very treatable. I think that's a really important message to convey to people – that yes, this is a tough diagnosis, but we can get through this, and most people will do really well. The key is early detection, and then making sure that once you are on that treatment pathway that you don't have any barriers that are unnecessary to stop you from having an optimal outcome.**

Jaydene's story:

"The Young Women's study offers hope to women like me"

Jaydene was just 27 years old when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in March 2023. Most breast cancer cases occur in women over 50 but for younger women, the disease tends to be more aggressive and have lower survival rates. Thankfully, Jaydene's treatment was successful, and she has hope that a research partnership between Breast Cancer Foundation NZ and the Universities of Auckland and Otago that you've helped to fund will change things for younger women with breast cancer like her.

The Helena McAlpine Young Women's Breast Cancer Study is a four-year project that is named after the broadcaster who died from breast cancer at the age of 37 in 2015. The aim of the research is to develop a tool to predict how aggressive an individual young woman's cancer could be, and therefore what treatments could be most effective.

At the start of 2023, I felt like I was at the absolute peak of life. I'd just started a new job and had also started going back to the gym, and then I found a little lump. Never did cancer cross my mind. A month later I noticed the lump was still there, it had become bigger and was a bit sore. I thought I'd better see a doctor and I assumed they'd tell me I was overreacting.

My GP wasn't concerned about it at all, given my age and health. But she said just to be extra cautious, she'd send me to the breast clinic. After a bunch of tests, they found stage 3 breast cancer that had spread to my lymph nodes. My treatment involved chemotherapy, a mastectomy, and radiation treatment.

I've had a lot of shocked reactions to me having breast cancer, a lot of people don't believe me because of my age. I've learnt that cancer doesn't care how old you are or where you're at in life.

It's reassuring we've come so far with what we know about breast cancer – I'm living proof that it's beatable. But it's scary that breast cancer is worse for younger women, and that it's not fully known why that is. The Young Women's Study offers hope to younger women with breast cancer like me.

> **My biggest fear is that my breast cancer will come back. If research could help to make sure younger women have the best possible treatment for their individual case, they wouldn't have to live with that fear of recurrence hanging over them.**

Robin’s story:

“Te Rēhita is helping to change the story of breast cancer in Aotearoa”

Robin was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2001 when she was 48 years old. For the past 10 years, she has been the consumer representative on Te Rēhita Mate Ūtaetae - Breast Cancer Foundation National Register’s Clinical Advisory Group (CAG), helping to govern the vital work of the Register.

My breast cancer diagnosis came completely out of the blue after a screening mammogram I had when I was 48. It was unusual to be having mammograms at that age, it wasn't until 2004 that the Government lowered the eligibility age from 50 to 45. But I'd had two aunts who had breast cancer in their mid-40s, so was encouraged by my GP to start screening early.

Within six weeks of learning I had breast cancer, I had a mastectomy with reconstruction, followed by three months of chemotherapy and four months of radiation treatment.

My oncologist, Dr Vernon Harvey, was integral to how I came to be on the CAG. For me, being the consumer representative on the CAG means speaking up for people who've been through breast cancer or who have lost their lives to it. The voice of the patient is crucial, so my role as a patient advocate is important on Te Rēhita.

There's an incredible amount of data held in Te Rēhita – it's a very powerful research tool used by clinicians and scientists to really dig deep into how to make improvements in care – both here in Aotearoa and internationally, and to ensure people live long and well after breast cancer.

As a truly national database, Te Rēhita represents the whole country, meaning we can challenge inequities faced by patients. This might include rural versus urban challenges, or the varying needs of our multicultural society.

This incredibly rich resource has contributed to real-world change. Soon, women aged between 70 and 74 will be able to keep having free mammograms – Te Rēhita has helped to make the case for why this is so needed through the information it holds on diagnosis, treatment and survival of women in this age group.

Breast cancer has changed since I was diagnosed. Now there are more suitable drugs and surgical options, and less intrusive treatments. This makes a difference – not just for survival, but also for quality of life. But there are still many gaps in knowledge and practice and that's why I remain on the CAG, because there's still work to be done.

> **The dream of zero deaths... well, I am 23 years cancer-free and counting. I'll keep contributing in whatever way I can to make things better in the hopes that my two daughters, and now a granddaughter, can look ahead with confidence. Te Rēhita is helping to change the story of breast cancer in Aotearoa.**

Support for patients going through treatment and beyond

Thanks to your kindness, patients can receive expert advice and free practical services from our team of specialist breast cancer nurses.

Specialist and personalised advice

Through our Nurse Advice Line telehealth service, we assisted thousands of women by providing information about concerning symptoms and support to those going through treatment. Enhancements to the programme this year allowed our nurses to offer an improved service for Kiwis in their greatest time of need, such as the introduction of SMS messaging so we can contact patients in the ways that work best for them.

Peer support

Our mybc Facebook group has grown to a vibrant patient community of more than 1,000 members who can connect with each other to learn from their shared breast cancer experiences. Our nurses support the community and are there to answer any questions or concerns as patients go through their treatment.

Expert information

More than 8,259 people tuned in to hear from the expert panels on our patient webinars. With topics ranging from breast density to life on long-term treatment, the webinars provide reliable information covering the whole spectrum of the breast cancer journey and are accessible to people at times and locations that suit them.

Charnelle's story:

How Breast Cancer Foundation NZ's nurses helped to make her feel in control of treatment

Charnelle (Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki), a mum of two from Gisborne, was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer in late 2023 at the age of 41. Thanks to a Breast Cancer Foundation NZ educational resource, Charnelle took action quickly when she realised she had symptoms of breast cancer, which led to her getting an early diagnosis. The Foundation's specialist breast nurses were with Charnelle through every step of her treatment and the support she received empowered Charnelle to feel in control.

I was diagnosed with breast cancer in December in 2023.

It was a regular day. I was shopping at PAK'nSAVE and came across the Pink Ribbon Street Appeal.

I made a donation and was given a pink ribbon and a little card which outlined symptoms of breast cancer. After reading that card, I felt like I had a few of those symptoms.

It took a couple of days for me to build up the courage to make the phone call to Breast Cancer Foundation NZ.

From that phone call, as scary as it was, she was lovely, and it was easy to talk to her. The first step was to make contact with my doctor and get a referral for a scan and mammogram.

I started chemo in January and did chemo for five months. After about six, maybe eight weeks after that, I had a mastectomy of my right breast.

It's been a full-on nine months of treatment. It hasn't been easy, but I've got through it and I've had some really good outcomes thus far.

Throughout these nine months, I feel like I've been well supported by my whānau, by my friends, but even from anyone associated within the cancer sector.

> **In particular, Breast Cancer Foundation NZ – every two weeks I got a phone call. Every phone call was appreciated, it was reassuring. The lady I spoke to on the phone, I felt like we had a relationship, and she was a part of my journey.**

Those phone calls were, in some sense, another lifeline for me. Where I didn't have to rely on and put everything on my whānau.

It's quite daunting going to chemotherapy and walking in the room or sitting in front of the doctor or these other specialists. So any information I got, I was able to use it to ask questions, to have a say within my plan.

I think it is important to donate to Breast Cancer Foundation NZ. Personally, it is appreciated. On this journey it's all that extra support that makes a difference mentally and physically.

Speaking from my own preference, it's such a relief if I'm being honest, the extra support given.

It's a hard knacker or a hard road to go on, fighting any type of cancer. So to anyone who has given any donations, thank you, it's appreciated.

Helen's story:

"The Breast Cancer Foundation NZ nurse was a lifeline for me"

Helen was diagnosed with breast cancer in August 2023, at the age of 61. The grandmother from Hamilton faced a challenging time during treatment, having to go through multiple surgeries. But throughout it all, the support Helen received from Breast Cancer Foundation NZ's specialist breast nurses helped her to get through a very difficult time.

My husband and I had just returned from a month in Thailand on a motorbike trip and we were about to go on another huge overseas trip. While we were home I needed to go for my smear, so I also booked in a mammogram too. We never ended up going on that trip.

Initially I was diagnosed with DCIS, a pre-invasive form of breast cancer. They thought it would be easy to take out – I'd have a lumpectomy and radiation treatment, then I'd be on my way. But during the lumpectomy they discovered the DICS was much larger than originally thought. I needed two further lumpectomies and eventually a mastectomy.

Throughout all of this time, I was getting mixed information – I was given lots of options, but I didn't feel like I had the information to make decisions wisely. I spent a lot of time Googling, and I felt very confused, alone and frightened.

Sue, the nurse at Breast Cancer Foundation NZ was a lifeline for me, being a point of contact who could explain what was happening. I got to the stage where I was waiting for her call. I could do the research myself, but my mind was in such a muddle, I couldn't tell what was reliable information.

I also found Breast Cancer Foundation NZ's mybc Facebook group to be an amazing resource. It made me feel not so alone in having three lumpectomies when I saw others commenting on my post that they had faced the same.

> **When I neared the end of my treatment journey, Sue also helped me with ideas of moving forward with my life after treatment. It's so reassuring to know the nurses are still there in the background if I ever need them.**

Bridget's story:

"ABCpro brings me so much peace of mind"

Our research shows the inability to manage symptoms has the most negative impact on the lives of Kiwis living with advanced breast cancer (ABC). But thanks to our ABCpro telehealth nursing service, designed especially for people with ABC, patients now have the ability to control worrying symptoms that can make life more difficult. Bridget, a mother of two from Tokoroa who was diagnosed with ABC at the age of 47, is one of the women benefiting from ABCpro.

I found a lump in my breast in September 2020. I saw a GP, who referred me for a mammogram and ultrasound. They called me on a Thursday before a long weekend to give me the results and I knew straight away it was bad news.

At first we thought it had been found early. But after doing all the tests, I learnt in December that the cancer was advanced and it had spread to my liver. When you hear the words 'palliative' it's scary. And the fact it was in the liver was the kicker – because just 18 months earlier I'd lost my husband Darrell to liver cancer.

I was one of the first patients to join the ABCpro service and I've found it incredibly helpful. Every week, I do an online survey about the symptoms and side effects related to my treatment. If a pattern emerges or a symptom reaches a designated threshold it triggers an alert with a specialist ABC nurse at Waikato Hospital. She'll give me a call to understand what's changed and help me to find ways to deal with the symptom.

ABCpro brings me so much peace of mind. There might be something I'm dealing with that I think is insignificant, but they'll pick up on something I just haven't thought of.

One time, I was concerned about a very sore arm and was worried the cancer had progressed to my bones. The nurse quickly established this wasn't the case and helped me to get massages to ease the pain.

It's wonderful knowing that somebody cares, I'm just not a number that has x amount of years or months. If something does change, I have the support there straight away, I don't have to wait three months to get an appointment. And not having to worry about every niggle makes such a difference.

Four years on from my diagnosis, I'm back to doing running and walking events and I'm feeling great.

> **I hope more Kiwis with advanced breast cancer like me will be able to get the chance to use ABCpro. I truly believe it's improved my life because everyone involved with the programme is interested in keeping me as well as I can be with this awful disease.**

Advocacy to improve access to screening and treatment

Together, we have a powerful voice in advocating for changes to the public health system so that Kiwis can have better access to timely diagnosis and treatment. Thank you for contributing to three game-changing advocacy wins this year.

Free mammogram age extended

After eight years of calling for the breast screening eligibility age to be raised from 69 to 74, the Government announced in February 2024 that work was underway by BreastScreen Aotearoa to make this happen. Women are at higher risk of breast cancer at 70 than they are at 50, so the age extension means more older women will get the chance to have their breast cancer diagnosed at an earlier stage, giving them a higher likelihood of survival.

Record Government funding for cancer drugs

Years of collective advocacy for investment in Pharmac has begun to pay off with the new Government giving a $604 million boost to fund new cancer medicines and committing to reforming Pharmac. This is an excellent start to ensure more Kiwis with breast cancer can get faster access to the same, necessary treatments that are already routinely provided overseas.

The first treatment for triple negative breast cancer

Pharmac named Keytruda (pembrolizumab) for advanced triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) as one of the first new cancer drugs it will make available with its new funding. Keytruda is a targeted treatment that can help stop TNBC from spreading and give people with advanced breast cancer more time. We are now calling for it to be funded for early TNBC too.

Margie's story:

Why raising the breast screening age to 74 is so necessary

When Margie was diagnosed with breast cancer, the age limit to receive free breast screening was just 69. Thanks to a diligent GP, Margie was referred for a mammogram which she had to pay for privately, since she was over 70 years old. Being so thankful for that mammogram detecting her early-stage breast cancer, Margie joined Breast Cancer Foundation NZ's efforts to get the screening age raised to 74 through her work in the RSA Women's Sections.

It was in 2021. I went to the doctor because I had a lump up on my shoulder, which turned out to be nothing. He glanced at my records and he said, "I see you haven't had a mammogram for three years, since you turned 70."

He said, "I'll give you a breast exam, which he did, then said, "you should go and have a mammogram because you'll think I've missed something."

He couldn't see anything so I duly I went and had the mammogram. I got a call back and breast cancer was picked up. Not because of the lump that they saw, they picked it up because there was a very small cluster of sparkles which told them something was shedding cancer cells, and there was a comet's tail which told them the direction it was going in.

I had all my tests privately, then I went to Waikato Hospital where I had a full mastectomy of my left breast. They found that there were actually three small tumours there, one a little bit bigger than the other two.

When they did the pathology test, they had got absolutely everything they would need to get, so I didn't have to have any follow-up treatment of chemo or radiation.

It was an oestrogen-fed breast cancer, so I'm on letrozole that I take daily to suppress any oestrogen in the body.

My doctor, when he said to me to have the mammogram, I lived in Te Aroha at that time. To have a mammogram, you did it on the bus, which I had already done and always done. But once you're 70 or over, you have to go to a private provider unless you have symptoms of some kind.

Because I had no symptoms or anything like that, my doctor said to me, "well it's no good me referring you to the breast cancer unit at Waikato Hospital because you'll be right at the bottom of the list."

I paid and went over to Hamilton Radiology. I then paid again for the ultrasound, when they called me back. I then paid again for the biopsy. The whole lot cost me just over $800.

So, for women having mammograms over the age of 70, there are two issues. The issue of cost and the issue of accessibility.

I'm fine now, I take my pill every day.

I have transferred now down to Masterton Hospital and Hutt Hospital, and I've had my mammogram here and had my check-ups. I'm on the system down here now and I'm good as gold. Just a little less of me.

I'm a member of the New Zealand RSA Women's Sections. When I was living in the Waikato, we were having our annual conference and it was decided we would send a remit to the National Party to send letters in support of Breast Cancer Foundation NZ in their fight to raise the screening age to 74, because it affected a lot of us.

A lot of us were in that age group. Those who were over that age group wanted it for their daughters.

> **When the Government said that they were going to extend our screening age to 74, I thought at last somebody is listening to us, and at last they realise how important those free mammograms are.**

Between Breast Cancer Foundation NZ and other groups around like us Women's Sections of New Zealand, we have achieved it.

> **Just because you're 70, the world doesn't stop. They seem to have this notion that once you reach 70, you're on the use-by date.**

Well, women today are not on that use-by date. Women today are very, very active. It's important for them to be able to lead their lives, as they should be able to, and access the mammogram and the treatment they need.

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ are in an ideal situation to promote all of this. They are a very, very well-known organisation within New Zealand and very much out in the public arena.

I've listened in on a few of the discussions they've had with Parliament and with various other places. They have the connections that are important to be able to advocate throughout New Zealand.

I would just say to people, please, in whatever way you can, give to Breast Cancer Foundation NZ, this is the future of our women in New Zealand.

Kat's story:

"Funded access to Keytruda opens a door to me that was previously closed"

Last October, Kat marked five years since her diagnosis of triple negative breast cancer (TNBC). The mother of two from Nelson was just 44 when she learnt she had the most aggressive form of breast cancer.

TNBC doesn't respond to the hormone-blocking treatments that prevent breast cancer from returning, but a new immunotherapy drug called Keytruda can specifically target TNBC. Kat shared her story in the media to help us advocate for Keytruda to be funded in New Zealand, and now she's overjoyed that it's finally available to Kiwis with advanced TNBC.

I had just moved from Wellington to Nelson with my family three months earlier. I'd had a couple of weeks of feeling aches and pains in my chest, but just thought I'd pulled a muscle or slept funny. There were no apparent lumps or other symptoms but the soreness across my chest wall continued and while it was a busy time at work and I was travelling a lot, I had this niggling feeling that I needed to get it checked out. A couple of weeks later, I made an appointment to see a doctor, thinking it'd be nothing.

My GP could feel a tiny lump and thought it was most likely a cyst but decided to be cautious. I was referred for a mammogram and ultrasound, then had a biopsy. Two areas of concern had been found in my left breast and the biopsy confirmed they were cancer.

I try not to dwell on the possibility of the cancer returning but it's always there. I felt an immense sense of relief when I'd heard Ketruda would be funded for advanced TNBC – it opens a door to me, and so many other people around Aotearoa, that was previously closed. I don't know what the future holds for me but if one day I'm going to face the situation where I'll need Keytruda, it gives me hope knowing that I won't have to worry about how I'll get it. And it gives me hope that things can change for the better and there can be better health outcomes for future generations.

When you're faced with a breast cancer diagnosis, there are already so many factors you have to consider, you shouldn't also have to question how you will finance your treatment. Knowing there are funded treatment options available takes away the additional strain and lets you focus on your health.

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> **Breast Cancer Foundation NZ has an incredible platform that gives visibility to thousands of patient voices. As an individual, you can feel quite powerless and wonder how you can be heard and help to make change. The Foundation gives you a place where you can be part of a community and together have a stronger voice. Without the Foundation, I think as patients we'd be a lot more vulnerable. But instead, we have an amazing organisation that is in our corner and a place where we can go to be part of the fight for change.**

Allison's story:

"Fighting for timely treatment had a huge impact on me"

Allison was just 34 years old when she found a breast lump in March 2022. She faced a two month wait to get a diagnosis. Then, after chemotherapy and a lumpectomy, Allison was told it would be more than three months before she could start radiation treatment. Unsatisfied with the delay, Allison and her husband Paul sacrificed their house deposit savings to pay for treatment privately.

Ahead of the general election last October, Allison shared her story as she joined us to call on all political parties to take action on breast cancer. Advocating for change isn't always visible in the public eye as it can range from meetings with Ministers and officials, making submissions and providing evidence and advice. But the election gave us an opportunity to generate attention through the media on what politicians can do to tackle breast cancer.

After finding my lump, I saw a GP and was referred to the breast clinic. I didn't hear from anyone for six weeks and the wait was excruciating. I was anxious, as the lump wasn't going away, and my skin had started dimpling around the lump. I was Googling every day with a massive fear of the unknown. I know breast cancer can be very survivable, but cancer is a scary word and it's too easy to jump to the worst possible conclusions.

I kept calling the hospital, only to be told I wasn't showing up in the system yet and had to keep waiting. I spent some time trying to find a phone number to call and finally got through to the hospital scheduler. They said they could see my referral and could get me in next week. I don't know if it was only because I was proactively calling about my appointment, but it pains me to think how much longer I would've waited had I not kept chasing it.

My treatment started with chemotherapy, in the hopes that it would shrink the tumour. Then after a lumpectomy in October, I found out the cancer had spread to my lymph nodes. I required radiation treatment, but I wouldn't be able to start until February. I asked if it was possible to go to another hospital if there was a shorter wait time in other areas, but was told that's not how it works.

My oncologist said that if it were him, he'd look into having radiation privately. It'd cost up to $30,000, and up to $500 per consultation.

Walking out of that appointment, I called a private clinic and was instantly given an appointment for an initial consult two days later.

Delaying treatment doesn't make sense from a financial point of view, you'll have more people back in the health system and the problems will keep compounding. It wasn't a risk I was willing to take, so I paid for the private treatment so I could get started right away. My husband and I used our savings for a house deposit, and my parents helped us out. I feel so fortunate to be in that position and to have those savings in the first place – I know not everyone is the same.

Having to fight for timely treatment, on top of a frightening diagnosis, had a huge impact on my wellbeing. I lost sleep because I didn't have a plan for how I was going to get better. Needing to constantly fight for myself was such an unnecessary extra hurdle to jump through when I was already sick.

> **Getting involved with Breast Cancer Foundation NZ's advocacy work was my way of paying it forward so others don't have to go through what I did. I'm two years post-treatment and feel so lucky to be here, but I don't know if I could say that if I didn't fight as hard as I did for my treatment. I came face to face with death in a way I'd never experienced before and now I have true empathy with that. I want it to mean something, for there to be a reason, so being involved in what little way I can is my way of turning my diagnosis into something positive.**

None of this is possible without you

All of this life-saving work is made possible by the wonderful support we are given from people like you throughout New Zealand.

We receive no government funding, so the thousands of people who back us every year are a vital part of the Breast Cancer Foundation NZ community who all share our vision of zero deaths from breast cancer.

The ways you show your amazing support are varied and diverse. Whether it's through events and appeals like Pink Ribbon Breakfast, Pink Ribbon Street Appeal, Pink Ribbon Walk, leaving a gift in your Will, making a monthly gift, or through your business, your generosity continues to blow us away.

Thank you so much to everyone involved in our fundraising this year. Because of big-hearted New Zealanders like you and many others, one day, no one will die from breast cancer.

205,644

hosted or attended a Pink Ribbon Breakfast

21,390

hours volunteered in the Pink Ribbon Street Appeal + NZ House & Garden Tours

Celebrating more than 20 years of partnership with: Estée Lauder Companies, Farmers Trading Company Ltd and ghd hair

And more than 10 years with: Harrisons, Robert Harris, Sealy NZ, NZ House & Garden Tours/Stuff

Julie’s story:

21 years of the Pink Ribbon Ride

For the past 21 years, Julie has run the Auckland Pink Ribbon Ride and raised more than $130,000 for Breast Cancer Foundation NZ. We are so grateful to Julie and all of our incredible community fundraisers for their tireless efforts to get New Zealanders involved in our mission to stop Kiwis from dying of breast cancer.

The Pink Ribbon Ride is a motorbike ride, but we include scooters and trikes, and also spiders, which are three-wheeled bikes.

It's a ride that starts off in St Johns and does a 17-kilometre route to Eden Park. We generally have between 300 to 400 bikes, but it really depends on the weather and the numbers of people. We've had up to 500 in the past.

The reason we have the Pink Ribbon Ride is to raise funds for Breast Cancer Foundation NZ, but also, it's about raising awareness.

We are a very visual ride, lots of the bikes are dressed in pink. This year the Pink Campervan was with us, we've had a pink bus in the past and pink cars as well.

So, it's very much about awareness as we ride through the police-approved route. We're very visual, and also the Breast Cancer Foundation car is with us.

My favourite part of the ride is getting everybody together and seeing the bikes all come in as they arrive at the beginning. Seeing the spectators as the ride goes past, and the enthusiasm of the bikers. They just so have so much fun.

They get dressed up. You wouldn't believe how they get dressed up. We have dogs dressed up, bikes dressed up, guys dressed up with bras on, it's such a visual experience.

The ride began in 2004 when I belonged to a women's motorbike club. At that point, we were supporting another woman's group but unfortunately, we moved on. Then we followed our Australian counterparts to be supporting Breast Cancer Foundation NZ.

My motivation is just the fun I have seeing everybody come together and the fact that we raise money for the most amazing cause, Breast Cancer Foundation NZ.

I feel like we're coming of age after all these years. Last year was our 20th and it was a big one. But the 21st was extra special for me. Being a part of it for all this time and again, having another special day as we raise – I keep saying it, but it's what we're here for – to raise money for Breast Cancer Foundation NZ, which is a big motivation for me.

Collectively when we included Wellington, and we've also got Northland doing their rides as well, we've raised over $130,000.

> **I think it's not only raising the money, but also the awareness side of it that we do was as well. It's important that we support Breast Cancer Foundation NZ. It's a worthy cause, so many people are affected by it.**

> **Every year we know of somebody who's passed on or is going through their, dare I say it, the journey of being in breast cancer. We have a lot of our riders who have had breast cancer or are going through breast cancer.**

We have the Busting With Life ladies who are dragon boaters, and they come and support us and our volunteers. And this year, again, we'll be having what we call our "Face of the Pink Ribbon Ride" – a lady who's got breast cancer and is a motorbike rider as well. So many people are involved and so many people are affected by it.

And the fact that Breast Cancer Foundation NZ doesn't get any government funding. So it's really important that the community gets together to support.

Melanie's story:

"Why I'm leaving a gift in my Will to Breast Cancer Foundation NZ"

Melanie is an incredibly passionate woman, with a long history in the education sector. She has felt the impact of breast cancer, losing friends and her beloved sister-in-law, Kate, who died from breast cancer in 2013.

Having been brought up with the values of giving back and supporting people, Melanie was motivated to raise $10,000 for the Foundation on a walk of the Great Wall of China. Every year since, she hosts a Pink Ribbon Breakfast with her work, buys tickets to the Pink Ribbon Walk with her friends, shakes a bucket for the Pink Ribbon Street Appeal, and most importantly, is leaving the Foundation a gift in her Will.

Kate was only 51 when she died. She had such a spiritual aura about her, she just was one of those extraordinary, lovely people. She was so special to me that I dedicated my PhD in memory of her.

From there, I started getting interested in cancer. I now know around five women who've been through breast cancer.

A couple of years ago, a friend told me about how her breasts were feeling lumpy but because she was so frightened, she didn't go and get checked for so long. I didn't understand that, with my background in epistemology, the study of thinking, I always try to understand things.

After Kate's death, I needed to look into breast cancer and that's what led me to Breast Cancer Foundation NZ. I first got involved in 2013 by shaking a pink bucket, and then started doing everything I could to help.

In my lifetime, I want to see zero deaths from breast cancer. I believe the best way to do this is through education, that's what Breast Cancer Foundation NZ does. We need to educate; we need people to understand it's not a taboo subject anymore. Sharing information about getting your boobs checked and getting women to go to that half-hour screening appointment that could save their life.

> **I can understand what the Foundation is trying to do, why they're doing it, and how it will help future generations. Even though I don't have children, I don't want my godchildren, my surrogate children and grandchildren, or my nieces and nephews to lose anyone to breast cancer.**

Harrisons' story:

More than carpets and curtain

Over the past 16 years, Harrisons has generously donated more than $800,000 to Breast Cancer Foundation NZ. As one of our longest-standing corporate partners, the company has now committed to giving us $100,000 every year from the sales of their flooring, curtain, blinds and solar panel products.

Harrisons' General Manager, Leanne Sowry, talks to us about why this partnership means so much to the business.

It all began in 2008, when we worked with Dunlop Flooring to create a pink underlay (the special cushion that is laid underneath carpet) to raise funds for Breast Cancer Foundation NZ. As we expanded into curtains and solar, we also grew our support to the Foundation adding donations from our curtains, blinds, and solar panel products.

As a company, we are committed to supporting the local community and partnering with Breast Cancer Foundation NZ aligns with our values of giving back. As the most common cancer among New Zealand women, and a major cause of cancer-related death, many Harrisons customers have been affected by breast cancer directly or indirectly, making the partnership resonate deeply with us.

We're proud to play a role in helping to raise awareness of breast cancer, contribute to early detection, and support for those affected. We're also a company that contributes to home improvement and solar energy, so this partnership aligns with our broader goals of improving the lives and wellbeing of New Zealanders.

Meredith is one Kiwi affected by breast cancer that we're thrilled to have been able to help directly. On Matariki last year, our Waikato North team organised a working bee of local volunteers to spruce up Meredith's home. She was going through breast cancer treatment at the time, winter illnesses were setting in, and we wanted to do something special for Meredith and her family.

The team uplifted the existing carpet and underlay and installed new warm underlay and stylish carpet, and they also worked on the gardens, cladding and paths around the house.

> **Meredith and her family were deeply moved by the community's support and generosity. We were so delighted we were able to improve the warmth and comfort of her home and create a more welcoming environment – this really lifted the family's spirits at such a challenging time for them. The local community and donors (who supplied the products) felt a real sense of unity and purpose in supporting the family and the collective effort during Matariki symbolised reflection, renewal and the power of kindness.**

Supporter recognition

We'd like to give a special thank you to some of our key supporters who are the lifeblood of everything we do: our corporate partners who we have such a strong relationships with, our major foundation, trusts and grant supporters who fund our life-saving programmes, individuals who have made a significant gift towards achieving our shared goal of zero deaths from breast cancer, and the generous people who passed away this year and made a long-lasting act of kindness by leaving us a gift in their Will.

We also want to thank our supporters who chose not to be named.

To view all partners, go to
breastcancerfoundation.org.nz/our-partners

Major partners

Stuff
ESTĒE LAUDER COMPANIES
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MASFEN FOUNDATION
RANO COMMUNITY TRUST
THE LION FOUNDATION

Gifts received through Wills in 2023/24

Estate of Elizabeth Clarke
Estate of Edith Conn
Estate of Andrew Lindsay Dixon
Estate of B Gilray
Norah Hamblin Memorial Trust
Estate of Barbara Joyce Laity
Estate of Bruce McKinstrie
Estate of Sandra Clare Romero

And a special thank you to all members of the Athlae Lyon Pink Ribbon Bequest Society for their dedication in supporting people impacted by breast cancer by leaving a gift to Breast Cancer Foundation NZ in their Will.

Our governance

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ is governed by a Board of Trustees who are responsible for all aspects of the Foundation's strategy, operations and financial stewardship. In addition, the Foundation is guided by a Medical Advisory Committee of medical practitioners who give direction on a variety of programmes.

Members of both of these professional bodies are leaders in their respective fields who volunteer their time and expertise in the pursuit of our shared goal of zero deaths from breast cancer.

2023/24 Board of Trustees:

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To read more about our Board of Trustees members, go to **breastcancerfoundation.org.nz/board-of-trustees**

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To read more about our Medical Advisory Committee members, go to **breastcancerfoundation.org.nz/our-medical-committee**

We also want to acknowledge Bell Gully for their ongoing support of the Foundation.

Breast Cancer
Foundation NZ

Financial statements

As a charity that doesn't receive any government funding, we are immensely grateful for the donations we receive, and we make sure every dollar makes a difference for Kiwis affected by breast cancer.

To view the 2023/24 Breast Cancer Foundation NZ financial reports, go to **www.charities.govt.nz**

breastcancerfoundation.org.nz/annual-report-2024

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ, PO Box 99650, Newmarket, Auckland 1149