



Cancer Society of New Zealand
National Office

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No Great Surprises!

While there are no great surprises for the Cancer Society in the latest statistics showing cancer as the leading cause of death in New Zealand, there are concerns that highlight the need for better access to specialists, medical treatment and drugs.

The Ministry of Health today issued figures showing a 3.6 per cent increase in registrations in 2002-2003 – representing 18,586 new cancer patients.

Chief Executive of the New Zealand Cancer Society said the report confirmed what he has been saying all along about the need for the Government to establish a dedicated body with the responsibility to lead, coordinate and drive the New Zealand Cancer Control Strategy.

“The Government’s priority objective to reduce the incidence and impact of cancer can never be reality until there is a coordinated approach to introducing new technology, valuing our people such as the radiology therapists and clinicians and unless PHARMAC takes a realistic perspective on cancer drugs and therapies,” he said.

“We all recognize the wonderful work being done by volunteers, NGOs, DHBS and in hospices in terms of education, detection, treatment and care, but this work in uncoordinated and ad hoc and certainly not supported by any government infra-structure,” he added.

The Cancer Society of New Zealand is the leading charity dedicated to reducing the incidence of cancer and ensuring the best cancer care for everyone in New Zealand.

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