



Cancer Society of New Zealand
National Office

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19 September 2007

CHILDREN THE UNFORTUNATE PAWNS

The news that Wellington children may have to travel to Auckland or Christchurch for cancer treatment is bad news for the Cancer Society.

Commenting on the fact that Wellington may lose its tertiary service Chief Executive of the society, Dalton Kelly, said, "this latest situation really underscores the need for the Government to step in and establish a dedicated body with the responsibility to lead, coordinate and drive the New Zealand Cancer Control Strategy".

"Sick and vulnerable children have enough to cope with without being dragged away from home and losing their family network. This adds huge amounts of stress to families, who are already at breaking point.

"The Cancer Society has been advocating for patients to have access to better treatments, medicines and specialist care and the lack of paediatric oncology treatment at Wellington Hospital just flies in the face of that."

Ends

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.

- Ends -

Media enquiries: For questions and to set up an interview / photograph with Dalton Kelly, please contact Lynne St.Clair-Chapman, National Communications Manager for the Cancer Society of New Zealand, on Tel: (04) 494 7195 / Mob: 027 4444 150, or email Lynne@cancer.org.nz.