Ovarian Cancer Foundation NZ

Te Kaikōkiri Mate Pukupuku Kākano-ā-Kopu ki Aotearoa

Annual Report

For the year ended
31 March 2025

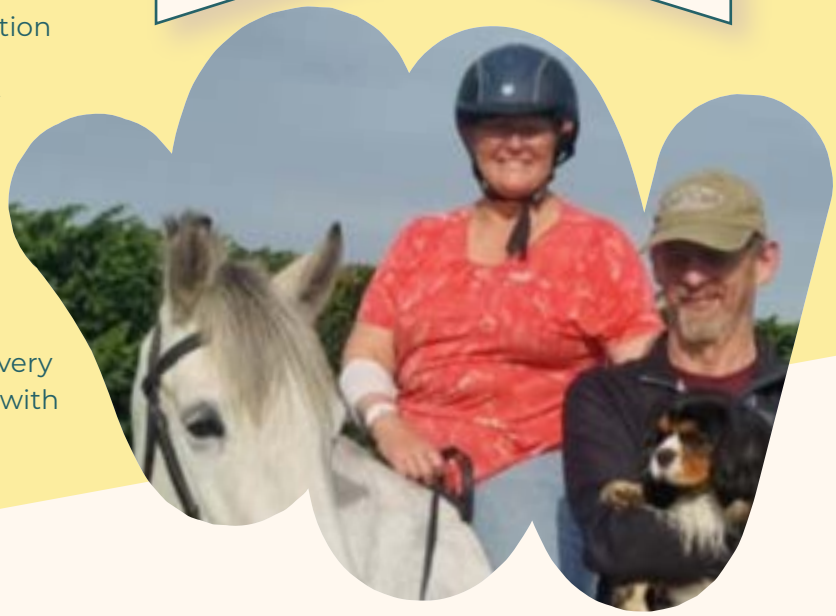
On the cover: Wendy

Wendy Gerritsen has been a huge part of our community, she was well-known for making the most of every day, supporting other women with ovarian cancer and raising awareness to make things better for future generations.

In February 2025, while knowing that she had run out of treatment options and had just months to live, she courageously volunteered to front our Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month campaign, sharing her story to raise awareness of ovarian cancer in New Zealand and advocate for change.

Wendy sadly passed away from high-grade serous ovarian cancer in April 2025. We will remember her for her bravery, compassion and grace and acknowledge her contribution to the work of OCFNZ and our wider community. She will be missed terribly by her family, her friends, and remembered by people who may never have met her, but have still been impacted by her dedication to improving awareness of ovarian cancer in New Zealand. Wendy's passion for making the most of every moment was infectious. We will miss her very much and share our deepest sympathies with those she loved the most.

Read Wendy's story here



A note on terms used:

- Unless otherwise specified, "ovarian cancer" includes cancer of the fallopian tubes, peritoneum and ovaries.
- Low-grade serous ovarian cancer may also be referred to in this report as low-grade serous carcinoma or cancer, LGSOC and LGSC.
- The Ovarian Cancer Foundation may be referred to as OCFNZ.

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Morrinsville sisters take part in Show Up for Ovarian Cancer

Highlights

- **180 people** participated in Show Up for Ovarian Cancer, raising over **$90,000.**
- **55 women** supported through our three free support services.
- **Launched two new support services,** funded one-to-one counselling and funded physiotherapy and rehabilitation.
- **Funded our first travel grant,** allowing an early career researcher to spend time in a world-leading lab at the University of Edinburgh.
- **Relaunched our global low-grade serous ovarian cancer work** as the Low-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer Initiative.
- **Bevacizumab and niraparib** were funded in New Zealand after years of advocacy.
- **We welcomed our newest board member, Maddy Chamberlain,** who has a focus on community engagement.

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Isabella Marathon

Isabella completed the Auckland Marathon, raising over $5,600 in memory of her mum, Amy.

> ***"I lost my beautiful Mum in February this year, and I am running the marathon in memory of her courage, sheer determination, and caring nature; even in her final days."***

Our vision

Every woman has the chance to live the life she wants, free from ovarian cancer.

Our mission

To improve ovarian cancer care today while funding transformational research to find tomorrow's cure.

The Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand was founded in 2018 by Jane Ludemann after she was diagnosed with low-grade serous ovarian cancer.

Learn more about our founder, Jane, and why she started OCFNZ.

A message from *Alana and Jane*

With the support of donors and our community, we are proud of the significant and meaningful progress we have made over the past twelve months to improve the lives of women affected by ovarian cancer.

Our personal highlights include:

The 2025 financial year saw us increase support available to women through their ovarian cancer diagnosis, offering connection, resources, and access to professional support. This included launching our funded one-on-one counselling programme and funded physiotherapy and rehabilitation through the PINC & STEEL programme. It is humbling to hear the impact this is making on women's lives.

A step forward in how we support research. This year, we launched our first travel grant, placing Sonesavanah Larkham, a New Zealand PhD student at the University of Edinburgh, to learn from world-leading experts. We were thrilled to see her go on to be awarded the Cancer Society's 2024 National Research Grant to continue her work into the early detection of ovarian cancer. We also entered into a new partnership with the Cancer Research Trust, the second-largest non-governmental cancer research funder in New Zealand. We have plans next year to fund our largest competitive grant to date and invest in genomic sequencing research.

February saw us launch Show Up as our flagship campaign during Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. Together, we raised over $90,000, an incredible result in the first year. Alongside our nationwide billboard campaign, we launched a six-week Mediboard campaign in over 80 medical practices across Aotearoa to raise awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer.

We also welcomed a hard-fought win: the long-awaited funding of niraparib and bevacizumab, two targeted treatments for advanced ovarian cancer. New Zealand is years behind other countries in making these drugs accessible to women with ovarian cancer, and the delay in access shows how much more work there is to do.

Our charity began as Cure Our Ovarian Cancer. In early 2024, we rebranded our local efforts as the Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand. In September 2024, we built on that by rebranding our global low-grade serous work as the Low-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer Initiative, a project especially close to Jane's heart. It gives women with this rare cancer and their loved ones a way to support vital research on their cancer, connect with others and access information about their diagnosis that's often hard to find. Through the LGSOC Initiative, we raised awareness of ovarian cancer for the fourth year in a row with billboards in London and New York on World Ovarian Cancer Day.

We were also delighted to welcome our new trustee, Maddy Chamberlain, who brings a strong background in public service and community work. And we farewelled our first General Manager, Whitney Gernhoefer, who helped grow our fundraising and expand our support programme. We're so grateful for her mahi, and we're excited to have Liz Pennington on board, bringing fresh energy and vision.

Last year, more than 200 women in Aotearoa died from ovarian cancer. We carry their memories and stories with us every day. They, and their whānau, are why we do this work.

There's still a long way to go, but we're ready for the challenge. Your continued support makes everything we do possible. Follow along with our mahi, share your story, and help us keep making a difference.

Thank you for helping us to make a difference.

Ngā mihi nui

Alana Allan
Chairperson

Jane Ludemann
Founder and Trustee

Welcome to our new General Manager,

Liz Pennington

Liz comes with a wealth of experience that spans not-for-profit, nursing, mental healthcare, community engagement, leadership and advocacy. Liz has held a number of leadership roles across national and regional organisations and government.

Known for her ability to grow services and forge meaningful connections with those who have lived experience and the wider community, she brings a strengths-based approach to transformation and equity. With this vision and energy, she is well-poised to lead OCFNZ into its next chapter.

"I'm excited about continuing my connection to this important work and making a difference for women and their whanau/family."

Our people

We're a passionate team, motivated by the resilience and strength of the women we serve. Their stories drive our commitment to improving treatment, care, and support for people living with ovarian cancer.

Learn more about our team

Liz Pennington
General Manager

Holly Townsend
Engagement and Support Coordinator

Kim Marsh
Service Support and Delivery Administrator

Our team

Alison Black
Grants Officer

Lisa Almond
Support Facilitator

Our Board of Trustees

Alana Allan
Chairperson

Jane Ludemann
Founder

Dr. Ben Russell
Trustee

Maddy Chamberlain
Trustee

Dr. Alicia Didsbury
Trustee

Challenges women face

There are challenges every step of the way when facing ovarian cancer, from having to push for a diagnosis, to a lack of treatments, to the impact that it has financially, physically, mentally, and on your whānau. Women facing ovarian cancer today share some of their challenges:

I wish we didn't have to fight for access to better drugs without going into debt having to sell homes, downgrade. I have gone into debt trying to keep health insurance knowing I am out of funded options. Just cancelled it to afford power and food. It's soul destroying.

Marie S

I had clear cell ovarian cancer. Currently, I am doing well, but the thought that it could return is a real worry.

Research into new ways of treating ovarian cancer is imperative. I remember one of the clinicians saying to me in the hospital, after my operation to remove a large tumour, that they try and keep us alive until a breakthrough in treatment happens.

It seemed crazy that the only option for me was chemotherapy when there are so many other new treatments for other types of cancers.

I would like to see opportunities for clinical trials and further research funding become mainstream for ovarian cancer so that others diagnosed feel a sense of hope for their future.

Annie M

I had never heard of ovarian cancer before I was diagnosed with it!

Erin B

I visited my doctor multiple times and was told my symptoms were due to IBS or a UTI. I eventually got diagnosed via the emergency room after being dismissed by my doctor for years.

Leondra R

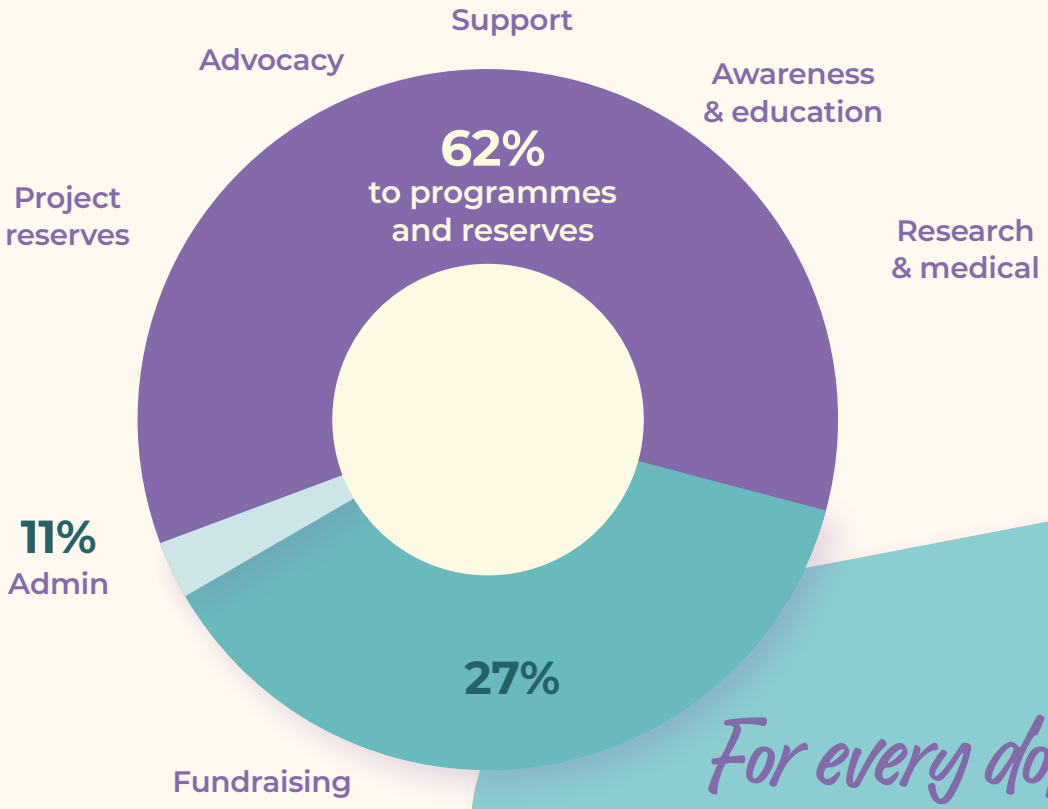
I have to keep reminding myself of what matters. Time. Time is what matters. If you think back to your childhood, you don't remember what you got for Christmas. You remember riding bikes and the camping holiday when the tent blew down in the wind. I've lost the confidence that I've got time, so we need to do all those sorts of things with our girls while I can.

Sarah L

Breakdown of costs

We rely on the support of our generous community to help fund our vital services

A portion of our salaries are generously covered by a donation from a major donor and grants, allowing us to direct every dollar raised straight into our programmes, services, and helping us raise the next dollar.



For every dollar raised

62c goes directly into programmes and services to improve ovarian cancer care.

38c helps us raise the next dollar

Sensational Soroptimists

We are thrilled that the Soroptimists International of Aotearoa New Zealand (SIANZ) have continued to support ovarian cancer as their national project for the fourth year in a row, and that as part of that, we are one of their proud charity partners.

SIANZ is dedicated to making a lasting impact in the lives of women and girls, and supporting OCFNZ is an incredible way to support that mission.

Westland Frockers

The Westland Club got right behind Show Up and spent Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month "Frocking Up" for ovarian cancer.

International Women's Day event

The Wellington Club hosted an IWD event, inviting Erin to share her experience living with ovarian cancer. Erin's powerful words, and the community spirit of the club led to over $8,000 being raised in an evening.

Nelson Quiz Masters

The Nelson Club hosted an awareness evening and quiz night - along with having a heap of fun, they raised over $7,000!

Research

Q&A with Dr Alicia Didsbury, Cancer researcher at the University of Auckland, and OCFNZ Trustee

Why is research so important to OCFNZ?

Research is the key to changing outcomes for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Since the 1980s, survival rates for ovarian cancer have barely improved, unlike other cancers such as breast and prostate cancer, where sustained research investment has led to major advances in early detection and treatment. This disparity always highlights the urgent need for targeted ovarian cancer research. At OCFNZ, we are committed to improving the lives of those affected by ovarian cancer, and supporting high-quality, innovative research is one of the most powerful tools we have to drive change and save lives.

In 2024–25, OCFNZ advertised grants worth $80,000, but only $40,000 was awarded. Why was there a shortfall?

There is a lack of stable and sustained funding for ovarian cancer research in New Zealand, which has made it difficult to build and maintain strong research pipelines. The number of scientists with the capacity to focus on ovarian cancer is very small, and developing new ways to study the disease or create innovative technologies takes time and long-term commitment. In the current environment, scientists often need to make tough choices about how to spend their time and resources, prioritising projects that are more likely to receive ongoing funding. Unfortunately, that meant that last year, very few researchers were in a position to apply for OCFNZ grants - not due to lack of interest or importance, but due to broader challenges within the New Zealand research environment.

Why is it so challenging to fund health research in New Zealand?

New Zealand punches above its weight when it comes to research talent and innovation, but we consistently lag behind in research investment. Government funding for health research is limited and highly competitive, so only a small proportion of projects receive support. For uncommon and under-recognised cancers like ovarian cancer (which lacks the visibility and funding momentum of more common cancers), the challenge is even greater. This means that critical projects aimed at improving early detection, understanding disease biology, or testing new treatments often go unfunded or are significantly delayed. Without dedicated support, we lose talented researchers to better-resourced fields or overseas institutions, which in turn means we lose momentum and opportunity.

What are OCFNZ's plans to support more research in 2025–26?

We recognise how difficult it is for scientists in New Zealand to develop sustainable research programmes in this space, particularly in the face of limited funding and competing pressures. In 2025-26, we've partnered with the Cancer Research Trust NZ to offer a targeted ovarian cancer research grant. This collaboration allows us to reach a wider network of researchers and fund projects through a well-established, expert-led review process.

I'm really excited to share that this year we've increased our funding commitment. Alongside funding a travel grant, supporting clinical trials and other initiatives we have increased our main ovarian cancer research grant to $80,000, which is enough to support salary and provide critical seed funding for the development of new, innovative ideas. The CRT grant will fund one year of research and is designed to help scientists generate the preliminary data needed to secure larger, long-term funding from national and international sources. By working with CRT, we are taking a big step towards strengthening ovarian cancer research in New Zealand.

Charity of choice for Mrs New Zealand

We were thrilled to be supported by the Mrs New Zealand pageant this year. In the lead up to the event contestants raised over $10,000.

Woodlands Rugby Club

Woodlands Rugby Club realised their clubhouse was in dire need of a new roof and were planning a fundraiser to cover the large cost. But at the same time, the premier coach's wife was diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

This incredible community decided to redirect their fundraising efforts raising over $31,000 and donating it to OCFNZ!

Supporting future leaders in research

This year, we awarded our first International Travel Grant to PhD candidate Sonesavanh Larnkham, who is based in the Pitman Lab Group at Te Herenga Waka: Victoria University of Wellington. The grant enabled her to visit a world-renowned ovarian cancer research facility at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, where she learned from respected researchers Dr Charlie Gourley and Dr Robb Hollis and brought her new skills and knowledge back to New Zealand.

Sonesavanh is part of a newly established research programme focused on improving early ovarian cancer diagnosis. Her PhD project involves validating micro-RNAs, small genetic molecules that may be released into the bloodstream by ovarian cancer cells early in disease development, as biomarker candidates for detecting early epithelial ovarian cancer. She is currently working with blood samples donated to the Wellington Gynaecological BioBank to investigate whether these micro-RNAs can be detected in patients.

During her time in Edinburgh, Sonesavanh gained hands-on experience with genomic sequencing data analysis and observed tissue culturing techniques that may help improve her group's research methods. She returned with valuable insights and skills to share with her team.

"Thank you so much for the opportunity you have given me to broaden my horizons. The knowledge I have gained and the valuable connections I have made while being in the UK would not have been possible without this grant and I am very grateful to have received it."

Funding advances in rare ovarian cancers

In October we were thrilled to award a $40,000 grant to Dr Aaron Stevens and his team at the University of Otago, Wellington.

The grant was awarded for the pilot study, 'Identifying genetic and epigenetic drivers of low-grade serous carcinoma.' This research aims to deepen understanding of LGSOC, a rare type of ovarian cancer that disproportionately affects younger women, which OCFNZ has a special focus on.

The research team will utilise recently released nanopore DNA sequencing technology to analyse genetic and DNA methylation differences associated with LGSOC. By identifying key biomarkers and potential drug targets, the study seeks to pave the way for more effective, personalised treatments for LGSOC. The ultimate goal is to improve patient treatment options and improve survival rates for those affected by this difficult-to-treat type of ovarian cancer.

Advocacy

Education and awareness

Improving symptom awareness and education remains important to us, and this year we continued to push for ovarian cancer education to be included in the National Cervical Screening Programme.

We have faced challenges, but we are encouraged that the dialogue continues, and we still see this as a valuable way to ensure more women are educated and empowered.

Ultrasound access

As part of last year's submission to parliament, we recommended the government approve access to ultrasounds to help improve ovarian cancer testing.

In May, increased funding for radiology was announced. This funding boost means that GPs will be able to refer women for private ultrasounds if the public system cannot accommodate them within the recommended time frame.

Hon Nicola Grigg, Minister for Women meeting with the OCFNZ team

Pharmac funding

We joined with other cancer charities in CANGO and Patient Voice Aotearoa to advocate for increased funding for Pharmac to ensure funding for treatments. The government has committed to increasing Pharmac's funding by $604 million over the next four years, which paved the way for bevacizumab to be funded.

Medicines access

It was fantastic to be part of the Valuing Life – Medicines Access Summit at Parliament, organised by Patient Voice Aotearoa and Medicines New Zealand. This was an important opportunity to talk with decision-makers about the issues New Zealanders face in accessing medicines.

Our hope is that in the future, no one in the ovarian cancer community will have to self-fund, fundraise or move to another country to access unfunded drugs. We are committed to continuing to advocate for this and are proud to stand by other organisations doing the same for their communities.

OCFNZ
FUNDRAISING

Reformer Pilates Bethlehem

This female-driven community raised over $2,500 in a day, highlighting the importance of community and standing up for women's health.

Awareness and education

Raising awareness of ovarian cancer and improving education remains essential to improving outcomes in New Zealand.

Mediboard

During Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, we ran our first-ever Mediboard campaign, raising awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer. Mediboards can be found in primary care practices across the country. These high-profile digital posters are able to be viewed by those in reception areas. The symptoms video was shown in over 80 medical centres and was played over 570,000 times. This high-profile campaign was made possible thanks to a generous grant.

World Ovarian Cancer Day

World Ovarian Cancer Day 2024 saw us highlight the message that Ovarian Cancer Can Affect Anyone. This allowed us to highlight two important messages

First, that women of any age and health status can be affected, unfortunately, we have heard too often that women have had testing delayed because they weren't deemed old or sick enough to have cancer.

Secondly, we wanted to acknowledge the communities that are affected by ovarian cancer, while the woman is at the centre of that, her diagnosis can have a huge effect on friends, colleagues, and most importantly their whānau. We are grateful to Harrison, whose Mum, Sara, has ovarian cancer, for fronting this campaign.

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month

We are grateful to all the people in the community

who host awareness events, put up symptoms posters, start meaningful conversations and especially to the women with ovarian cancer who share their stories and raise awareness of ovarian cancer.

Support for women with ovarian cancer

This year, we continued to offer two monthly peer support groups and have considerably expanded our support offering by launching two new services and more informative resources.

Funded counselling

Launched in November

12 women received free professional counselling

We give women access to three fully-funded one-on-one counselling sessions with counsellors, allowing them to address individual circumstances, no matter what stage of their diagnosis they are at.

Funded physio and rehab

Launched in April

30 women accessed free physio and rehabilitation sessions

We facilitate tailored physiotherapy and rehabilitation, which can make a huge difference to how women recover from surgery, adapt to changes in their body and handle the rigours of cancer treatment. We are proud to partner with PINC & STEEL to increase access to these services for women with ovarian cancer.

Webinars

Launched in April

7 webinars across the year

with a combined attendance of 77 people and over 280 viewed the webinars after the live sessions.

Webinars allow us to connect women with experts on a variety of topics. Topics included nutrition, recurrence, exercise and physiotherapy, clinical trials, research and more. With 300 women diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year, these webinars are reaching a significant share of newly diagnosed women, ensuring they can access reliable, timely information.

Learn more about our support services:

ovariancancerfoundation.org.nz/support

Carol Nelson

In January 2025, Carol Nelson passed away after 20 years of facing ovarian cancer. Carol was an absolute trailblazer and cornerstone of the ovarian cancer community in Aotearoa. Among her many achievements in driving change for ovarian cancer, she was the founder of Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in New Zealand, an incredibly important event that we are proud to be part of each year, and will continue to passionately support in her memory.

Carol held information sessions about ovarian cancer, spoke at events across New Zealand, attended conferences internationally, and sold teal coloured merchandise, to share information and educate others about ovarian cancer.

Sadly, after multiple recurrences over twenty years, Carol passed away peacefully at home with her family and best friend by her side. Carol's family and friends miss her dearly. They are extremely proud of how she faced cancer and take comfort in knowing that Carol is now at peace and free of pain.

Low-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer Initiative

Low-grade serous ovarian cancer (LGSOC) is a rare and severely under-researched type of ovarian cancer that disproportionately affects younger women. We've been prioritising research and driving progress for LGSOC since our beginning in 2018, at a time when few ovarian cancer charities around the world had ever funded any LGSOC research.

Honouring our commitment to LGSOC, on the 9th of September 2024, on the inaugural LGSOC Awareness Day we launched a dedicated brand for our global LGSOC project called the Low-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer Initiative.

The mission of the LGSOC Initiative is to radically improve survival of women with LGSOC through research, and to provide good information to enable and empower them to make informed decisions about their care.

Highlights from the past year include:

- Celebrating our brand launch with a webinar led by world expert Dr David Gershenson, Professor of Gynaecological Oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, that was attended by over 100 women.
- Reaching 1000 members of our Low-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer Peer Support Group.
- Over 1000 engaged sessions on our new website in its first month.
- Adding six new LGSOC resources to our website including our Guide to Hormone Therapy.
- Attending the first ever LGSOC patient conference hosted by our US research partners STAAR LGSOC Foundation in January during their 5th anniversary.
- Receiving a STAAR Partnership Award in recognition of our close collaboration since their founding in 2020.
- Highlighting LGSOC through our impactful World Ovarian Cancer Day campaign on billboards in Piccadilly Circus London and New York Times Square.

Australia (ANZGOG)

$23,000 AUD

ANZGOG's current research programme includes the PARAGON II clinical trial investigating the use of CDK4/6 inhibitors with letrozole in rare gynaecological cancers, including LGSOC; and a laboratory study investigating the combined use of MEK inhibitors and CDK4/6 inhibitors in LGSOC.

Funds raised this year will be used to support a future ANZGOG research project focussed on improving outcomes for those living with this rare and often treatment-resistant cancer.

Canada (BC Cancer Foundation)

$8,782.50 CAD

Funds raised in Canada support LGSOC researcher Dr Mark Carey's laboratory contributing to the following advancements for LGSOC.

- Comprehensive assessment of Folate Receptor Alpha as a therapeutic target in LGSOC (PMID 40150910).
- Working with the Canadian Cancer Trials Group and NRG to develop a clinical trial using the novel drug combination avutometinib/defactinib as primary treatment after surgery for patients diagnosed with LGSOC.
- Development of patient-derived xenograft (PDX) of 5 unique LGSOC cases. These are still under assessment.
- Development of patient-derived 2D cell lines from primary LGSOC patient.
- Successful development of PDX-derived 2D cell lines
- Clinical data collection for LGSOC registry for the Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope.
- Expansion of collaboration network, sharing of cell lines with researchers from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, European Institutes of Oncology and University of Otago (on behalf of the International Consortium for low-grade serous ovarian cancer).

New Zealand (Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand)

In New Zealand we directly funded two research projects related to LGSOC

A $40,000 grant to Dr. Stevens from the University of Otago, Wellington, for his pilot study, 'Identifying genetic and epigenetic drivers of low-grade serous carcinoma.' This research aims to deepen understanding of LGSOC, a rare type of ovarian cancer that disproportionately affects younger women. (read more on page 14)

A travel grant funding a laboratory placement for an early career researcher from New Zealand to gain experience with our LGSOC research partners in the United Kingdom. (read more on page 13)

United Kingdom (University of Edinburgh)

£34,075.23

Supporting Professor Gourley's LGSOC research laboratory at the university of Edinburgh. They have used the kind donations to fund part of the salary of a post-doctoral researcher (Dr Sarah Taylor) who is progressing low grade serous ovarian cancer research on two main fronts. Sarah has optimised a protocol for routinely growing tumours derived from patient samples in the laboratory so that their responsiveness to various therapies can be tested outside of the patient. They now have a number of these 'organoids' growing in the laboratory. Sarah has also performed a drug screen to find cancer drugs which combine best with the drug trametinib, in the hope that they can test these combinations in clinical trials. A number of hits have been identified and these are currently being validated in the laboratory before transferring to the clinic.

United States (STAAR Low-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer Foundation)

$1,420 USD (direct donations, fundraisers not tracked)

Funds raised for STAAR go directly to research into low-grade serous ovarian cancer (LGSOC). STAAR works with leading scientists, clinicians, and research institutions to help drive progress and improve outcomes for people with this rare cancer.

In April the first research project jointly funded by STAAR Ovarian Cancer and the Low-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer Initiative (under our previous name Cure Our Ovarian Cancer) was published in Nature:

In **Nature** he project investigated estrogen signalling in low-grade serous ovarian cancer (LGSOC) to better understand how the cancer cells use estrogen.

> **"We found that our approach can better predict the response of patients to endocrine therapy, including [those with] LGSOC," Wong said. "In addition, we identified a few genes which are associated with endocrine therapy resistance."**
>
> **– Study author Dr KK Wong from the University of Anderson MD Anderson Cancer Center**

In February, STAAR celebrated its 5th anniversary with its first-ever Patient Conference in Houston. Our founder, Jane, attended the event, which brought together patients, caregivers, medical experts, and advocates to share experiences and hear about the latest developments in LGSOC research and treatment.

LGSOC Initiative

Researcher Charlotte Sun, Founder Jane Ludemann, STAAR Chair Nicole Andrews and Researcher KK Wong

Attendees at STAAR's LGSOC Patient Conference

Show Up *for* Ovarian Cancer

Show Up for Ovarian Cancer 2024 saw amazing people from across the country come together to step up in support of women with ovarian cancer. From step challenges and hikes, bake sales and morning teas, to long lunches, our supporters stepped up in creative and meaningful ways, raising money for OCFNZ.

Thank you to the 180 people who chose to Show Up for Ovarian Cancer this year. We raised over $90,000!

Morrinsville Sisters Step Challenge

$10,700

Jan Borland's Awareness Afternoon Tea

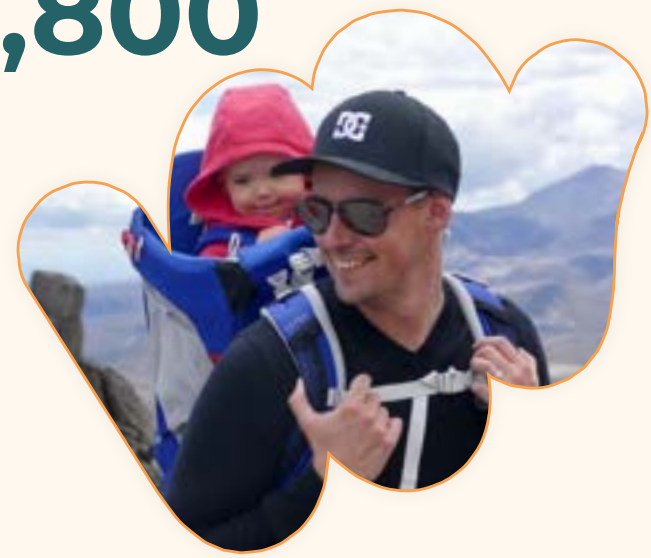
$3,800

Hawea Community Event and Raffle

$4,500

Nick takes on Cook Strait

$5,800



Chloe's Pub Quiz Night

$2,000

Mauao Hike to Support Sharon

$1,800

Why we Show Up

"For my sister who passed away from ovarian cancer"

"To support those fabulous, courageous women going through any cancer journey."

"We are a business run by women, for women and this cause concerns us all."

Thank you
to our incredible supporters

On occasion, we rely on the support of volunteers and pro bono services to help us with various projects. Thank you to everyone who has supported the Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand this year.

Annie McDonald
Candice Kitt
Carol Nelson
Chloe Adams
Dr Cherie Blenkiron
Dr Heather Cunliffe
Dr Michelle Vaughan
Dr Michelle Wilson
Ele and Grant Ludemann
Erin Bassett
Gallaway Cook Allan
Gemma Dunkley
Geraldine Tennant
GoMedia
Harvey Green Wyatt Chartered Accountants
Honest Wolf
Leondra Roberts
Lion Foundation
Marie S
Moss Lannon
Mrs New Zealand
National Distillery Company
PINK & STEEL
Sarah Luxon
Soroptimists International of Aotearoa New Zealand
TELUS Health
Topham Gurein
Wenday Gerritsen
Our amazing fundraisers
Our incredible ovarian cancer community

Our Funders

Grassroots Trust
Lottery Community
Pub Charity
GSK

We would also like to acknowledge the support of our global low-grade serous community and thank those people and organisations who have supported us with various activities this year.

Alex Coppock-Bunce
ANZGOG
BC Cancer Foundation
Brianna Leigh Wagner
Diane Evans
Dr David Gershensen
Elsa Larsen
Kari Neumeyer
Leslie Vreeland-Corpe
Lisa Mextas
Liz Miller
Michelle Hill
Silvercast Media
STAAR Ovarian Cancer
University of Edinburgh
Verastem

Performance Report

Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand
For the year ended 31 March 2025

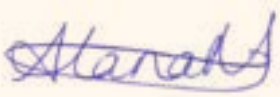
Prepared by Harvie Green Wyatt

Approval of financial report

Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand
For the year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees are pleased to present the approved financial report, including the historical financial statements of the Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand for the year ended 31 March 2024.

APPROVED

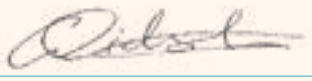


Alana Allan

Chairperson
23 June 2025

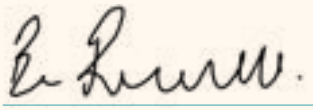
Jane Ludemann

Trustee
23 June 2025



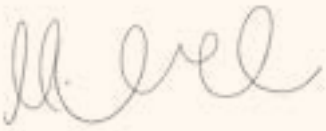
Alicia Didsbury

Trustee
23 June 2025



Benjamin Russell

Trustee
23 June 2025



Madison Chamberlain

Trustee
23 June 2025

Compilation information

Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Compilation Report to the Directors of Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand.

Scope

On the basis of information provided and in accordance with Service Engagement Standard 2 Compilation of Financial Information, we have compiled the financial statements of Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand for the year ended 31 March 2025.

These statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in the Notes to these financial statements.

Responsibilities

The Trustees are solely responsible for the information contained in this financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet your needs and for the purpose that the financial statements were prepared.

The financial statements were prepared exclusively for your benefit. We do not accept responsibility to any other person for the contents of the financial statements.

No Audit or Review Engagement Undertaken

Our procedures use accounting expertise to undertake the compilation of the financial statements from information you provided. Our procedures do not include verification or validation procedures. No audit or review engagement has been performed and accordingly no assurance is expressed.

Disclaimer

We have compiled these financial statements based on information provided which has not been subject to an audit or review engagement. Accordingly, we do not accept any responsibility for the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the compiled financial information contained in the financial statements. Nor do we accept any liability of any kind whatsoever, including liability by reason of negligence, to any person for losses incurred as a result of placing reliance on this financial report.

Harvie Green Wyatt
Level 5, 229 Moray Place
Dunedin 9016
Dated: 23 June 2025

Entity information

Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand
For the year ended 31 March 2025

'Who are we?', 'Why do we exist?'

Legal name of entity

Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand

Entity type and legal basis

The Trust was registered as Charitable Trust under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 on 14th June 2018. The Trust was also registered with the Department of Internal Affairs Services as a Charity on 31st July 2018.

Registration

Charitable Trusts Act Registration Number 2707031
DIA Charities Services Registration Number CC55925
Registration Date 31/07/2018

Entity's purpose or mission

Ovarian Cancer Foundation NZ's purpose is to improve ovarian cancer care in New Zealand by funding transformational research, advocating with women for equitable care, facilitating support for women and raising awareness of ovarian cancer. To honour the initial purpose of the organisation, we retain a special interest in low-grade serous ovarian cancer through our activities.

Entity structure

The Trust operates from Dunedin. The Trust Deed states that there must be between two and eight trustees. The Trust currently has five trustees who constitute the governance board. The existing Trustees have the power to appoint further Trustees from members of the public who have an interest in the Trust's charitable purpose.

Main sources of entity's cash and resources

The Trust raises all its funds by way of donations and fundraising from the community and by grants from organisations. All money we receive covers the cost of our services (research, advocacy, support and awareness) as well as our operating costs (general, marketing, fundraising etc).

Main methods used by entity to raise funds

Donations

Donations are received from a variety of sources including:

- Through our website
- Directly from individuals, community groups and businesses
- Fundraising events
- Grants

Fundraising

Members of our community fundraise on our behalf through a number of fundraising initiatives.

Promotion

Our team and trustees engage with the community through presentations, and we promote our work through social media, our website (ovariancancerfoundation.org.nz) and public facing campaigns.

Postal address

C/- Gallaway Cook Allan, P O Box 143, Dunedin Central, Dunedin 9054

Website – lgsoc.org

This statement has been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the accounting policies and notes to the Performance Report.

Statement of financial performance

Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand
For the year ended 31 March 2025

'How was it funded?', 'What did it cost?'

Revenue	Note	2025	2024
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	1	443,846	441,295
Total revenue		**443,846**	**441,295**

Expenses	Note	2025	2024
Advocacy, awareness and support services	2	39,725	30,684
Low-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer Initiative	2	11,441	11,501
Expenses related to public fundraising	2	35,210	30,114
Volunteer and employee related costs	2	172,553	161,144
Costs related to providing goods or service	2	55,715	32,353
Research grants made	2	37,475	91,000
Other expenses	2	614	1,229
Total expenses		**352,733**	**358,026**

Surplus/(deficit) for the Year		**91,113**	**83,269**

Statement of financial position

Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand
As at 31 March 2025

'What the entity owns?' and 'What the entity owes?'

Assets	Note	31 MAR 2025	31 MAR 2024
Current assets			
Bank accounts and cash	3	645,779	563,680
Total current assets		**645,779**	**563,680**
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	614	1,229
Total non-current assets		**614**	**1,229**
TOTAL ASSETS		**646,393**	**564,908**
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Grants in advance	4	25,000	34,628
Total current liabilities		25,000	34,628
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**25,000**	**34,628**
Total assets less total liabilities (net assets)		**621,393**	**530,280**
Accumulated funds			
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	6	**621,393**	**530,280**
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS		**621,393**	**530,280**

This statement has been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the accounting policies and notes to the Performance Report.

Statement of cash flows

Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand
For the year ended 31 March 2025

'How the entity has received and used cash'

Cash flows from operating activities	2025	2024
Donations, fundraising and other similar receipts	443,846	376,847
Cash receipts from other operating activities	(9,628)	34,728
Payments to suppliers	(314,644)	(251,715)
Grants paid	(37,475)	(91,000)
Total cash flows from operating activities	**82,099**	**68,861**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash	**82,099**	**68,861**
Bank accounts and cash		
Opening cash	563,680	494,819
Closing cash	645,779	563,680
Net change in cash for period	**82,099**	**68,861**

Statement of accounting policies

Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand
For the year ended 31 March 2025

'How did we do our accounting?'

Basis of preparation

The entity has elected to apply PBE SFR-A (NFP) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting – Accrual (Not-For-Profit) on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses equal to or less than $2,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

The Performance Report is presented in New Zealand dollars.

Goods and services tax (GST)

The entity is not registered for GST. Therefore all amounts are stated inclusive of GST (if any).

Income tax

Ovarian Cancer Foundation NZ is wholly exempt from New Zealand income tax having fully complied with all statutory conditions for these exemptions.

Bank accounts and cash

Bank accounts and cash in the Statement of Cash Flows comprise cash balances and bank balances (including short term deposits) with original maturities of 90 days or less.

Changes in accounting policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies. Policies have been applied on a consistent basis with those of the previousreporting period.

This statement has been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the accounting policies and notes to the Performance Report.

Notes to the performance report

Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand
For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Analysis of revenue	2025	2024
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue		
Donations and fundraising	386,340	375,827
Grants	57,506	65,368
Other revenue	–	100
Total donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	**443,846**	**441,295**

2. Analysis of expenses		2024
Advocacy, awareness and support		
Advocacy	4,788	5,512
Awareness	15,365	11,462
Support	19,572	13,711
Total advocacy, awareness and support	**39,725**	**30,684**
LGSOC Initiative		
LGSOC Initiative	11,441	11,501
Total LGSOC Initiative	**11,441**	**11,501**
Expenses related to public fundraising		
Fundraising	20,701	5,085
Marketing	9,494	23,835
Website	5,015	1,195
Total expenses related to public fundraising	**35,210**	**30,114**

	2025	2024
Volunteer and employee related costs		
HR	–	1,150
Training & development	120	78
Travel – national	1,365	2,836
Wages	171,069	157,080
Total volunteer and employee related costs	**172,553**	**161,144**
Costs related to providing goods or services		
Bank fees	78	105
General expenses	179	(62)
Consulting, accounting & reporting	2,639	2,754
Gifts – internal	352	–
Insurance	1,507	1,294
Legal expenses	–	1,923
Marketing projects	–	14,500
Office expenses	7,145	275
Payment processing fees	13,364	7,582
Projects i.e. photography	–	1,121
Show Up costs	28,868	–
Subscriptions	–	1,199
Telephone & internet	1,584	1,664
Total costs related to providing goods or services	**55,715**	**32,353**
Grants made		
Research	37,475	90,000
Administration	–	1,000
Total grants	**37,475**	**91,000**
Other expenses		
Depreciation	614	1,229
Total other expenses	**614**	**1,229**

This statement has been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the accounting policies and notes to the Performance Report.

3. Analysis of assets	2025	2024
Bank accounts and cash		
Canada	–	3,206
Europe	–	178
NZ Account	644,565	551,598
Payment processer account	1,076	8,685
US	–	13
Credit card	137	–
Total bank accounts and cash	**645,770**	**563,680**

4. Analysis of liabilities	2025	2024
Unused donations and grants with conditions		
Grants In advance	25,000	34,628
Total unused donations and grants with conditions	**25,000**	**34,628**

5. Plant & equipment	2025	2024
Office equipment		
Office equipment	2,808	2,808
Office equipment – accumulated depreciation	(2,194)	(1,580)
Total office equipment	**614**	**1,229**
Total plant & equipment	**614**	**1,229**

6. Accumulated funds	2025	2024
Accumulated funds		
Opening balance	530,280	447,010
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)		
Current year earnings	91,113	83,269
Total accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	91,113	83,269
Total accumulated funds	**621,393**	**530,280**
Total accumulated funds	**621,393**	**530,280**

$142,169 is being held with the intention of bringing a low-grade serous ovarian cancer clinical trial to New Zealand, when a suitable trial becomes available. This is in keeping with the purpose for which it was raised.

7. Commitments

There are no commitments as at 31 March 2025 (Last year – nil).

8. Contingent liabilities and guarantees

There are no contingent liabilities or guarantees as at 31 March 2025 (Last year – nil).

9. Related Parties	2025	2024
Donations		
Trustees and close family members – donations	122,754	130,500
Total donations	**122,754**	**130,500**

The Founder provides services to the Trust at no charge equatible to .5 FTE position.

The Trustees provide their skills and oversight of the Trust at no charge.

The Ludemann family have agreed to donate $115,000 per annum for 4 years to support the trust in its administration and payroll expenditure for the period January 2023 – January 2027.

10. Events after the balance date

There were no events that have occurred after the balance date that would have a material impact on the Performance Report (Last year – nil).

This statement has been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the accounting policies and notes to the Performance Report.

Depreciation schedule

Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Office equipment	cost	Opening value	Sale price	Purchases	Dep recovered	Capital gain Loss	Rate	Method	Depreciation	Closing Accum Dep	Closing Value	Private use amount
Dell Inspiron 16" Laptop	1,404.00	1,228.50	–	–	–		50%		307.13	1,096.88	307.12	–
Dell Inspiron 16" Laptop	1,404.00	1,228.50	–	–	–		50%		307.13	1,096.88	307.12	–
Total office equipment	2,808.00	1,228.50	–	–	–				614.26	2,193.76	614.24	–
Total	**2,808.00**	**1,228.50**	**–**	**–**	**–**				**614.26**	**2,193.76**	**614.24**	**–**

Ovarian Cancer Foundation NZ

Te Kaikōkiri Mate Pukupuku Kākano-ā-Kopu ki Aotearoa

ovariancancerfoundation.org.nz

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