

State of Ovarian Cancer in Aotearoa Report

He kōrero mo te ahuatanga o te mate pukupuku kākano-ā-kopu ki Aotearoa

This report is shaped by the voices of wāhine living with ovarian cancer across Aotearoa, highlighting the barriers wāhine face and the urgent need for faster diagnosis, fairer care and meaningful change.

“

A long and arduous recovery has left me very unsure of the future but determined to survive.

”

Each year in
New Zealand:

306
wāhine are
diagnosed

207
women
die

30%
die within one year
of diagnosis

43%
Five-year survival
rate

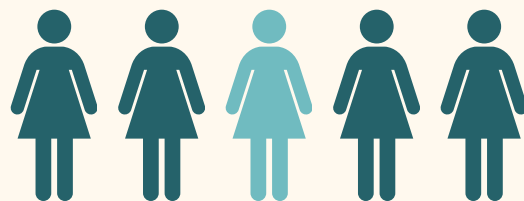
80%

8/10 Kiwis don't know
the symptoms of
ovarian cancer.

“

I know what I was
feeling... I got a
definite
impression that
my narrative was
being dismissed.

”



1 in 5 women had to wait over a
year from their first doctors
visit to get diagnosed.

48%

**Almost half of NZ's
ovarian cancer
diagnoses occur through
the emergency
department**

increasing the one-year
mortality rate from **17% to 42%.**

**Read the
full report**



Our mission

Tō mātou kaupapa

Improving ovarian cancer care today,
while funding transformational
research to find tomorrow's cure.



**Ovarian Cancer
Foundation NZ**

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Actions that can transform outcomes Te anga whakamua

Reduce the incidence of emergency diagnosis

- Add ovarian cancer symptoms education to the national cervical screening programme so people understand that cervical screening doesn't test for ovarian cancer
- Amend Health Pathways to allow GPs to refer symptomatic women for a CA-125 blood test and an ultrasound at their first GP visit

Address gynae-oncology specialist shortages

- Increasing investment in this workforce and supporting recruitment

Identify people at higher genetic risk before they get ovarian cancer

- Reduce BRCA testing thresholds
- Develop a familial cancer registry to track and intervene with families with hereditary cancers
- Legislate against genetic discrimination by insurance companies

Improve medicines access and investment

- Funding through Pharmac needs to be significantly increased to allow people to access modern treatments in a timely manner

Address data gaps and make accurate, real-time data more accessible across the health system

- Develop an ovarian cancer register that will record the treatment pathways of women

Prioritise ovarian cancer clinical trials

- Funding and resourcing for ovarian cancer clinical trials across New Zealand needs to be prioritised

Increase funding and focus on ovarian cancer by the Health Research Council

- Create a national ovarian cancer research strategy and a coordinated national framework to align clinicians, researchers, patients and advocates
- Establish a national ovarian cancer biobank to safely collect and store tumour samples from women

Include people with lived experience, their whānau and patient advocacy groups in service design, policy and research

- Inclusion and participation in co-design of services, policy and research

Read the full report

Scan the QR code to
learn more or contact us
at office@ocfnz.org.nz



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