

## Northern Cancer Network Newsletter

Issue 1, August 2009

**Kia ora Koutou and welcome** to the 2nd Northern Cancer Network newsletter. This publication aims provide Network stakeholders some of the latest information on the wide range of cancer activity happening in the Northern region and nationally in relation to cancer control. In this issue we highlight the key achievements of the Network for 2008/2009 and current Network

### Northern Cancer Network secures \$1.18 million research grant

The Northern Cancer Network is proud to announce we have received a 3 year research grant of \$1.18 million to assess barriers to the early diagnosis of lung cancer in primary care.

The grant comes from the DHB Research Fund managed by the Health Research Council. The research project is a collaborative effort between the Network, Auckland District Health Board (DHB), Counties Manukau DHB, Procure Networks Auckland and Manukau, Healthcare Otago, Lakes DHB, PHOs within the Lakes region, the NZ Guidelines Group and the University of Auckland.



Health Research Council of New Zealand

Led by Dr Wendy

Stevens the initial component of the study is a literature review which will be completed by September 2009.

The project aims to identify barriers within primary care and at the primary-secondary interface for people with suspected lung cancer, and to develop recommendations for service reconfiguration to improve timely access to cancer care.

For any queries or further information regarding the project please contact Dr Wendy Stevens via email ([w.stevens@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:w.stevens@auckland.ac.nz)) or visit our website [www.northerncancernetwork.org.nz](http://www.northerncancernetwork.org.nz)

### Northern Cancer Network promotes Maori aspiration within all Network activity

Leadership within the Northern Regions Maori Health sector strongly supported the establishment of the Network's Maori Leadership Group leading this work.

The group established in October 2008 has integrated tikanga and kaupapa into the Network and provide Maori guidance to develop and promote Maori aspiration within all Network activities.

Key achievements include the submission of Maori priorities to the Networks strategic planning process and annual work plan; significant contribution to the development and success of the Network's recent \$1.18 million lung cancer research grant and supported the establishment of three Maori Cancer Consumer Groups.

### Travel and Accommodation needs analysis

The aim of the project is to identify transport and accommodation issues and make recommendations for resolving these. It will also explore the impact of travel and accommodation issues on non attendance at treatment and follow up appointments. The project group consists of representatives from the Network, the Cancer Society, Regional Cancer and Blood Centre, and the Northland Cancer Control Steering group.

The project aims to: discover the issues and barriers oncology patients have with travel and accommodation while receiving treatment at Auckland City Hospital or Whangarei Hospital; identify patients awareness of travel and accommodation assistance available.

To date the project group has completed:

- a Stocktake to determine current travel and accommodation options available
- a review of previous Did Not Attend studies to determine the barriers
- 100 face to face patient interviews and sent 1000 postal surveys to identify the challenges and barriers that the cancer patient experience in regards to transport and accommodation.

The final report will make recommendations to the DHBs and the Cancer Society on initiatives to improve the travel and accommodation needs of cancer patients and is due in September 2009.

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Northern Cancer Network

# Network Highlights for 2008 to 2009

For the year 2008 to 2009 the Northern Cancer Network annual work plan focussed on the consolidation of the Network's infrastructure and the establishment of the first Northern Cancer Network strategic plan. Key achievements included:

## Northern Cancer Network Health Needs Analysis completed

A cancer related health needs assessment was undertaken by Geeta Gala the Network's Public Health Medicine Specialist to provide an overview of the cancer burden in the Northern region and inform the Network's strategic plan. Results from this report will also be used to support strategic, service planning and research activities of the cancer care stakeholders. Data for the report was collated from the National Cancer Registry, National Minimum Dataset, National Mortality Collection Dataset and Census 2006. Additional data on cancer screening, survival rates and treatment was sourced from Ministry of Health.

The report contains sections on: population demography, cancer incidence, cancer mortality, cancer survival, cancer treatment, cancer screening, ethnic inequalities and Northern region DHB inequalities.

Information from the Health Needs Analysis informed the prioritisation of tumour streams that the Network will implement over the next five years.

The report is due for publication mid August. To receive a copy of this report email [kirsty.hunter@ndsa.co.nz](mailto:kirsty.hunter@ndsa.co.nz) or contact Geeta on 09 589 3930 or 0212417 687 or email [geeta.gala@ndsa.co.nz](mailto:geeta.gala@ndsa.co.nz).

## First Northern Cancer Network strategic plan soon to be released

The Network's Management team is thrilled to inform you that the first NCN strategic plan has been approved by the Regional CEO forum and has been sent to the Ministry of Health for their endorsement. Once received the plan will be printed and distributed to key stakeholders. The plan sets out the cancer control activity that will be lead by the Network in the Northern region for five years from 2009/10 through to 2014/15. It also provides strategic direction for Northern DHB and stakeholder cancer control plans.

With a focus on a combination of quality improvement and health gain initiatives the framework used directs strategic activity occurring at patient, service delivery and organisational dimensions and is underpinned by sound planning, and monitoring and evaluation. This multi-dimensional approach is needed in order achieve sustainable improvement.

While this strategy will drive the work plan of the Northern Cancer Network Management team, over time we hope to see the development of a broader regional plan for cancer control that will provide collaborative strategic direction for all cancer control activity in the Northern region. Such a plan will in turn inform the future service development and investment of each DHB for the benefit of the growing Northern region population.

If you wish to receive an electronic version of the publication once released please email [kirsty.hunter@ndsa.co.nz](mailto:kirsty.hunter@ndsa.co.nz).

## Network Lung and Bowel Tumour Streams up and running

As a means of improving cancer outcomes and reducing inequalities the Network will review and improve service delivery across the care continuum for all the main tumour groups.

During 2008/09 the Network successfully established the first Lung and Bowel tumour streams.

The focus of the tumour streams is to ensure consistent access and practice across the region. This will be achieved through the establishment of continuous quality improvement groups who identify opportunities for service improvement. We will initially focus on improving the timeliness for the patient through the clinical pathway focussing on high impact change areas first.

Lung cancer was selected as the first tumour stream as a result of the findings of an audit into secondary care management of lung cancer patients in the Northern region. The study highlighted the key issues existing within the lung cancer care in the region. When compared to some overseas countries the study found that the following issues existed: Poor access to secondary care, many patients presenting too late for curative treatment, long diagnostic workup delaying commencement of treatment, few patients are discussed in multidisciplinary meetings (MDM), patients are under treated. Colorectal cancer was selected as the second tumour stream due to the high incidence and mortality rates for bowel cancer and also in order to prepare for the introduction of the national bowel cancer screening programme.

Pieter ten Have the Network's Tumour Stream project manager is leading the tumour streams in assistance with a project group consisting of representatives from each DHB plus Maori and Consumer representation.

For progress updates please go to page four. Further information on the Network's tumour streams can viewed at [www.northerncancernetwork.org.nz](http://www.northerncancernetwork.org.nz) or call Pieter on 09 589 3935 or 021 2416 716 or email [pieter.tenhave@ndsa.co.nz](mailto:pieter.tenhave@ndsa.co.nz)

## Leading Strategic Review of Regional Radiotherapy Services

The Network in conjunction with the Auckland Regional Cancer and Blood Service is leading a strategic review of Regional Radiotherapy Services in order to identify requirements to met future demand. The project commenced in 2007/08 and continues. The project is using international models to confirm demand projections in order to identify the capacity required over the next 10-15 years and is analysing a range of service configuration options are being analysed to identify a preferred model for sustainable radiotherapy services for the region. It will also examine new technology on the horizon, workforce needs and potential efficiency gains. The final strategy is due for completion later in 2009.

Northern Cancer Network partners come from across the Northern region and work at different stages of the cancer continuum partners include: Northern Region DHBs, Non-Governmental Organisations, General Practitioners and Primary Health Organisations, cancer service providers, cancer consumers and their family or whanau, hospices, and research organisations.

## A new approach to reducing wait times

The Medical Oncology unit at Auckland City Hospital has taken a new approach to improving patient service. Their 'Lean Six Sigma' project is nearing completion, with the aim of reducing waiting times for patients receiving chemotherapy treatment.

Lean Six Sigma is a problem-solving approach that had its roots in the manufacture of motor vehicles and mobile phones, but it is now becoming a powerful tool in solving

healthcare issues worldwide. The approach utilises the combined forces of those who work closely in the process – the nurses, administrators and doctors, combined with rigorous data analysis, to drive to the root cause of the problem. "Taking the time to understand the problem using data is the key to success" said Project Manager John McTaggart. "Once the team had identified the core issues the solutions became obvious. We are starting to see significant improvement to our wait times. Chemotherapy patients are now waiting less time for their first specialist appointment, are receiving notification of the commencement of treatment faster and are starting their treatment sooner".



## Management of early breast cancer guidelines soon to be released

The NZ Guidelines Group is launching the new national guidelines on the management of early breast cancer on 12 August 2009.

The launch will take place at the National Maori Cancer Forum in Rotorua.

Developed by a group of clinical and consumer experts the guideline provides an evidence-based summary of best practice in the management of early breast cancer. It covers the period from a person's diagnosis through to treatment for early breast cancer. It includes recommendations for follow-up.

The guideline specifically addresses the management of women with ductal carcinoma in situ and invasive adenocarcinoma of the breast of clinical stages I, II and IIIA. Men with stage I, II and IIIA are included. It does not cover screening or the management of advanced breast cancer.

The Ministry commissioned the guidelines as part of its commitment to the implementation of the Cancer Control Strategy.



This commitment is ongoing, with the Ministry funding the development of an implementation plan, to be completed in early 2010.

The guideline is intended primarily for providers of care for women with early breast cancer, but will be freely available for all.

It will be available for electronic download from the NZGG's website from 13 August 2009. The website is [www.nzgg.org.nz](http://www.nzgg.org.nz).

More details on the National Maori Cancer Forum are on page 7 or go to <http://www.conference.co.nz/index.cfm/MaoriCancer>

## The Quit Group TE ROOPU ME MUTU

### Smokers who use the Quitline 'at least five times more likely to quit smoking than those going cold turkey'

Huge numbers of smokers are using the Quitline to make quit attempts as a new study shows that they are at least five times more likely to quit successfully than smokers giving up 'cold turkey'. Last year the Quitline - a free service run by The Quit Group offering brief advice, support and low-cost nicotine patches, lozenges and gum - signed up more than 53,000 new smokers from across New Zealand.

A new evaluation of the service reveals: At least one-in-five people signing up with the Quitline had quit smoking after six months – compared to a success rate of around one-in-twenty-five for those quitting cold turkey; show the correct use of nicotine patches, lozenges and gum further increases people's chances of quitting; 98% of smokers who had quit would recommend the Quitline to others.

For a full copy of the Quitline press release including latest statistics go to [www.quit.org.nz](http://www.quit.org.nz) Chris Pitt on 04 460 868/9899 or email [chris.pitt@quit.org.nz](mailto:chris.pitt@quit.org.nz).

## WDHB Melanoma Service Improvement Project

Clinicians and administration staff of North Shore Hospital have begun work on the Melanoma Service Improvement Project at Waitemata DHB. One of the objectives of the project is to align the melanoma 'service' with the recommendations of the recently released Clinical Practice Guidelines for Melanoma. The Guidelines will provide the framework against which the 'service' will be measured.

The team will be examining how patients' needs are met across both the primary and secondary sectors. The processing and flow of patient cases into and through the hospital will be reviewed, with the objective of aiming for the shortest and most effective route from presentation through treatment to final discharge.

By involving patients and patient support organisations such as the Melanoma Foundation early on in the project, the team plans to ensure that any changes it effects will lead to improvements that meet the patients' psychosocial needs as well as their treatment and physical care needs.

For further information, contact Ros Smart ([Rosalind.Smart@waitematadhb.govt.nz](mailto:Rosalind.Smart@waitematadhb.govt.nz)) or Andrew Old ([Andrew.Old@waitematadhb.govt.nz](mailto:Andrew.Old@waitematadhb.govt.nz))



# Work in progress...

Bringing together stakeholders to plan and deliver a set of comprehensive and integrated cancer services, that are coordinated across patient care pathways through a multidisciplinary team approach, for the Northern Region.

**Lung Tumour Stream**— The amended format for a regional thoracic multidisciplinary meeting (MDM) form has been agreed upon by the Northern region district health boards and is currently being implemented in the four DHBs. Three out of the four DHBs are regularly sending copies of their MDM forms to the Network for calculating key performance indicators. The results indicate that access and length of workup requires considerable improvement. The Network will work closely with DHBs to identify ways of addressing it. The aim is to reduce the average time between MDM decision and the specialist assessment at first treatment by approximately a week.

**Bowel Tumour Stream**— A bowel tumour stream steering group consisting of clinicians and managers from the 4 DHBs has been established. The group will meet monthly to improve the bowel cancer journey. The overall aim is to improve the length of time taken to get a diagnosis and commence treatment.

Initial project initiatives are:

- focus on improving the referral and triage process for patients suspected of bowel cancer and making it more uniform across the region.
- Improving access to colonoscopies

A lean six sigma is being initiated at CMDHB to improve access to colonoscopies.

**HRC Lung Cancer Research**— Wendy Stevens has been employed as lead investigator and research assistant is soon to be employed. The initial component of the study is a literature review which will be completed by September 2009. A delegation of kaumatua, kuia and Maori leadership will lead researchers and Network members to Rotorua and Taupo to present details of the research and to begin the tikanga process that will flow throughout the project. A powhiri is scheduled for 1 October to welcome all members of the lung research project team.

For any queries or further information regarding the project please contact Dr Wendy Stevens via email ([w.stevens@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:w.stevens@auckland.ac.nz)) or visit our website [www.northerncancernetwork.org.nz](http://www.northerncancernetwork.org.nz).

**Reducing Inequalities**— Last year the Network produced an analysis of issues related to inequalities in cancer care. From the analysis recommendations were made that fed into the strategic planning process. As a result of this work we will undertake the following three inequalities related initiatives this year:

- Increasing early intervention for lung cancer
- Improving cultural competency in mainstream services
- Working with Iwi to look at cancer incidence for their people
- Investigating the radiotherapy intervention rate in Northland.

In addition to these specific initiatives other projects include an inequalities focus for example the tumour streams and the MDM project.

**Monitoring Improvements in cancer control**— Indicators are currently being developed to monitor the performance of the Network. These indicators will be reported on every six months so that we can measure the results of our quality improvement initiatives. Indicators will cover the cancer continuum from prevention through to supportive care. We are collaborating with the other region networks so that results can be compared.

## Major Network Projects for 2009/2010

- Lung, Bowel and Breast tumour streams
- Multidisciplinary meetings
- Early detection of lung cancer
- NDHB radiotherapy intervention rates
- Improve cultural competency for main stream services
- HRC lung research
- Directory of services
- Website enhancement
- Baseline cancer data
- Guidelines Implementation
- Travel & accommodation
- Iwi cancer incidence research
- Network forum support
- Communications

# Network Forums

In the latter part of 2008 the Network Management Team established a Consumer Reference Group, Maori Leadership group and a Regional Cancer Care Co-ordinator Forum to further complete the Network organisational structure. The groups have agreed terms of reference and meet bi-monthly.

**Consumer Reference Group**— Consumer participation at all levels of health care has been shown to make a positive contribution to improving health outcomes. The Consumer Reference Group was established in November 2008 to ensure a consumer perspective and input into projects, service planning and Network activities. Forum members have experience of a variety of cancers. Having focussed on addressing cancer consumer related issues within the Northern region the group has:

- Provided constructive input and feedback to both Network strategic plan and the Radiotherapy strategic review
- Provided feedback on various Network projects
- Consumer representatives now sitting on both tumour stream steering groups working to support the tumour stream activities within the four district health boards
- Undergone training in consumer participation.

**Maori Leadership Group**— Membership of the Maori Leadership Group includes Kaumatua, Kuia and consumers. Plus the district health board regions Iwi governed Treaty partners, Te Tai Tokerau MAPO, Te Tihi Ora MAPO and Tainui MAPO. Also the GMs Maori of the Northern Region, Tamaki Healthcare PHO, Te Kupenga o Hoturoa PHO, ProCare PHO, Palliative Care and Hospice services, DHBs Maori Health teams and Cancer Care Coordination Services. Miria Andrews CEO of Tainui MAPO is the Chair of the group.

The Maori Leadership Group meets again on 15 September. Key items for discussion include follow up on previous agenda topics:

- The tikanga process for the inclusion of the two Lakes DHB Iwi Organisations, Te Arawa (Rotorua) and Ngati Tuwharetoa (Taupo) related to the HRC funded Lung Cancer research project.
- National Maori Cancer Forum 2009
- Early intervention for lung cancer project
- A review of the effectiveness of the Maori Leadership Group

**Regional Cancer Care Coordinator Forum** — This group was formed in November 2008 as result of the Regional Cancer Networks recognising the need to coordinate the development of patient navigator/care coordination roles across the region. It is effectively functioning with agreed terms of reference and volunteer Chair Jan McMullen, ADHB Nurse Specialist. The group have identified how the exchange of information and better networking can enhance our patient's care, whilst under our collective services and will work towards this.

Already the group has improved contact with associated colleagues across the Tasman who established a Care Co-ordinators Group some time ago. We aim to learn from there journey and will take the opportunity to not only optimise potential for networking and information exchange, but also reduce the risk of re-inventing the wheel.

## Regional Cancer Collaborative provides kaitiakitanga / guardianship of the Network

The Regional Cancer Collaborative provides kaitiakitanga / guardianship of the Network, and is the forum for wider stakeholder participation into the Network direction and focus. This group coordinates and provides stakeholder advice and recommendations to the Network Executive Group, and oversees the development of the regional strategic plan and annual work-plans in order to achieve the Network vision. Key responsibilities for group during 2008 and 2009 were advising on the:

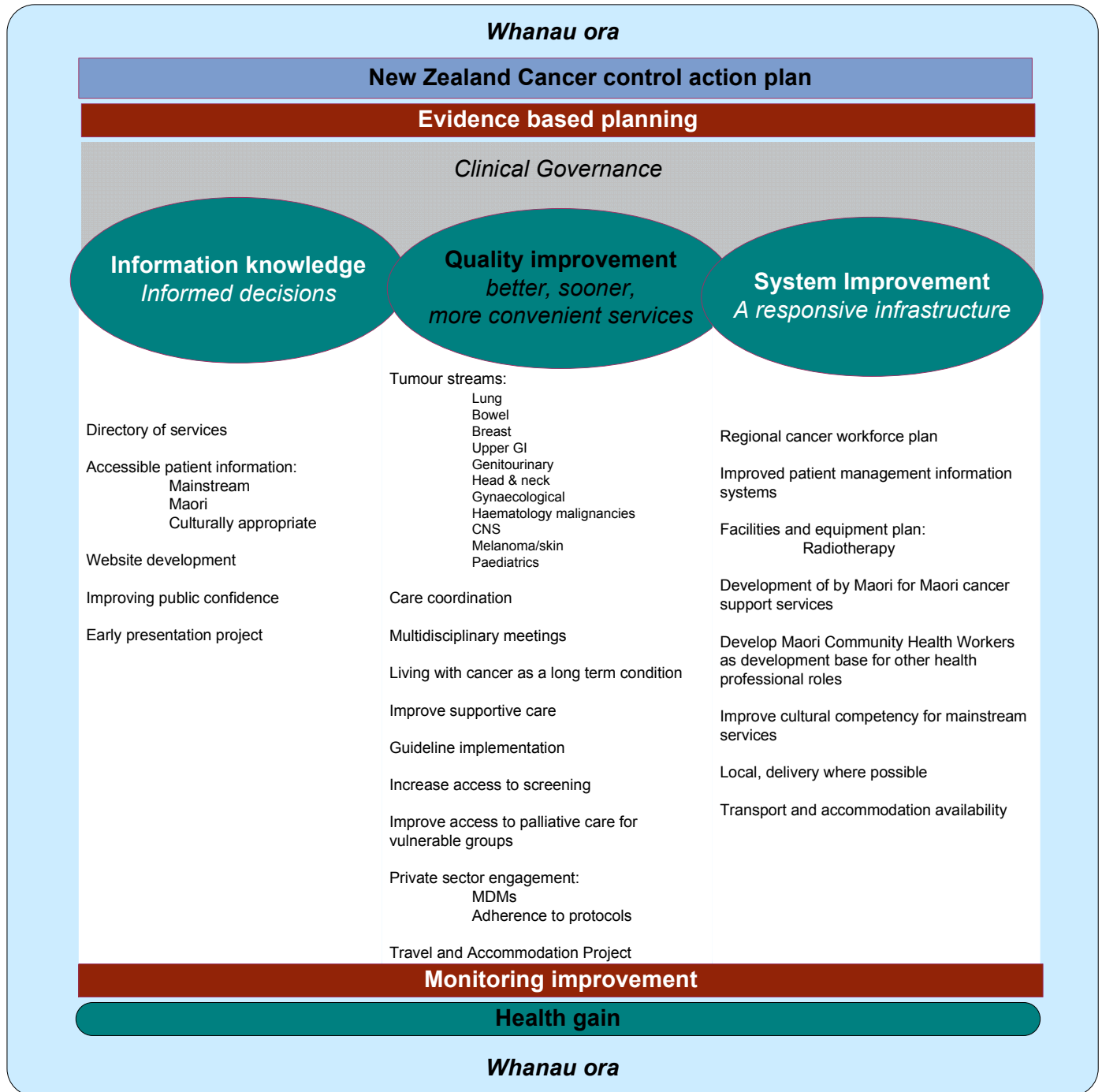
- Strategic regional priorities
- Prioritisation of the Network's workplan for 2009/2010 and tumour streams
- Northern Cancer Network strategic plan.



Bringing together stakeholders to plan and deliver a set of comprehensive and integrated cancer services, that are coordinated across patient care pathways through a multidisciplinary team approach, for the Northern Region.

# Northern Cancer Network Strategic Framework

Below is the framework for the Network's strategic plan. These activities will be initiated over the next 5 years.



# About the Northern Cancer Network

The Network was established in 2006 by the four Northern DHBs to provide a mechanism for the Northern region to enable everyone involved in Cancer Control to work collaboratively to improve patient outcomes.

## What is a Regional Cancer Network?

The Northern Cancer Network is one of four Regional Cancer Networks in NZ established to implement the NZ Cancer Control Strategy Action Plan 2005-2010. Our vision is to improve cancer control through increased regional collaboration and our mission is to improve the outcomes for cancer patients, their carers and whanau.

The goals of the Networks are based on the purposes of the Cancer Control Strategy being to reduce the incidence and impact of cancer in the Northern region; and reduce inequalities with respect.

The Northern Cancer Network works across the cancer continuum, providing leadership, facilitation and coordination with cancer control stakeholders in the Northland, Waitemata, Auckland and Counties Manukau DHB areas. The Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) is the lead DHB for the Network.

Key objectives include *supporting the local delivery of effective, efficient and equitable cancer control services by:*

- facilitating Cancer Control Strategy and Action Plan planning and implementation;
- facilitating regional collaboration to improve patient journeys and outcomes;
- supporting quality improvement initiatives; supporting regional integration across traditional silos

## Network Management Team

2008/09 has been an expanding year for the Network's Management Team.

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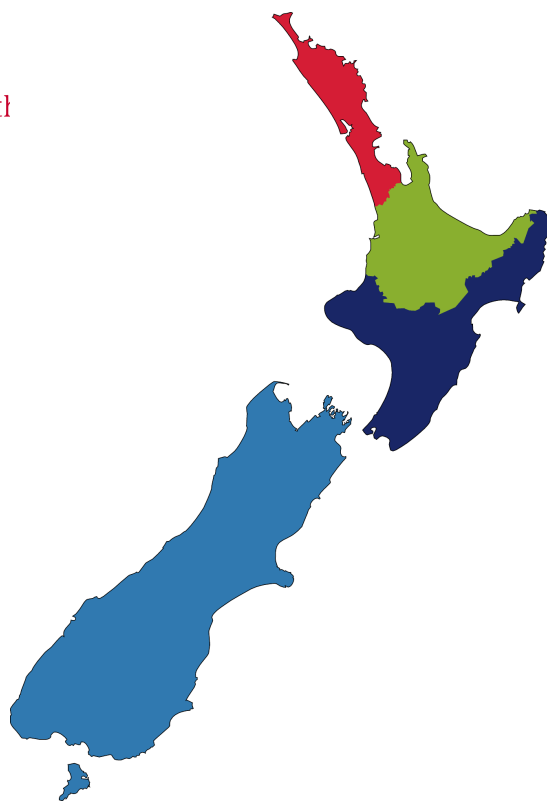
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Network



## Northern Cancer Network committed to the principles of the Treaty

He Korowai Oranga the Maori Health Strategy provides the framework for Maori participation in decision making in health. It encourages the health sector to work meaningfully and directly with Whanau Hapu Iwi and Maori communities.

The Network is committed to the treaty within the framework of the NZ Public Health and Disability Act 2000 and the NZ Cancer Control Strategy 2003.

The Northern Region district health boards have established mechanisms for engaging with Maori at both governance and operational funding and planning levels through relationships with their Treaty-partner organisations Te Tai Tokerau MAPO, Tihi Ora MAPO and Tainui MAPO. The MAPO are iwi-governed organisations that operate as co-funding partners with the regions DHBs and the Ministry of Health.

# What's happening...

## First National Maori Cancer Forum 2009

"Revolution of Cancer Care for Maori and Whanau"

**Date:** 12, 13 & 14 August 2009

**Hosted by:** A coalition of Maori Cancer services

**Where:** Heritage Hotel, Rotorua, home of Te Arawa

This forum is by Māori for all, and in observance of the kaupapa to share knowledge, skills and expertise. Gary Thompson the Network's Inequalities Projects Manager is a member of the coalition along with Aroha Mai – Cancer Support Group, Kaitiaki Nursing Services – Tauranga, Kimi Hauora Health Centre, Tamaki Healthcare PHO, Te Kahui Hauora Trust, Te Kupenga o Hoturoa PHO, Te Whanau o Waipareira and West Coast – Te Tai O Poutini PHO. Members of the Network's Management Team will be in attendance. Including Richard Sullivan the Network's Clinical Director. Richard will present on the 12 August at 4.15pm. For those attending the forum we hope you join Richard and Gary at the role of Maori in Regional Cancer Networks presentation.



NATIONAL MAORI CANCER FORUM 2009  
**Revolution of Cancer Care**  
FOR MAORI AND WHANAU

12 – 14 August  
The Heritage Hotel Rotorua

## Northern Cancer Network Meetings 09

21 Aug Network Executive Group  
27 Aug Regional Cancer Care Coordinator  
27 Aug Lung Tumour Stream Steering Group  
3 Sept Consumer Reference Group  
15 Sept Maori Leadership Group  
18 Sept Regional Cancer Collaborative  
16 Oct Network Executive Group  
28 Oct Lung Tumour Stream Steering Group  
5 Nov Consumer Reference Group  
20 Nov Regional Cancer Collaborative  
25 Nov Regional Cancer Care Coordinator

## Latest Network Publications

Northern Cancer Network Strategic Plan 2009/10-2014/15  
Northern Cancer Network Annual Report 2008/2009  
Regional Health Needs Analysis  
Inequalities Situational Analysis Report

*Network published reports can be viewed in the publication section of the Network's website.*

[www.northerncancernetwork.org.nz](http://www.northerncancernetwork.org.nz)

## ACRN September Seminar — Tuesday 15 September

**Auckland Cancer Research Network invites you to:**

### The PI3 kinases in the clinic

Prof Peter Browett, Head of Molecular Medicine and Pathology Department

### Inhibitors of phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K)

A/Prof Gordon Rewcastle, Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre

When: Tuesday 15 September 2009—4pm to 5pm

Where: 502—B41 Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Medical and Health, University of Auckland

For more information email Euphemia at [e.leung@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:e.leung@auckland.ac.nz).

To join the Network or register simple go to: <http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/acrn/>.



## Join the Network

**Are you interested in keeping up to date with the Network's activity.**

It's as easy as emailing

[kirsty.hunter@ndsa.co.nz](mailto:kirsty.hunter@ndsa.co.nz) to join the Network.

If you are receiving updates from us and do not wish to please email Kirsty to be removed from the Network's database.

We welcome all cancer services and organisations to forward us items of interest for circulation via email or for inclusion in Network newsletters or the Networks website.



## Contact us

**The Network is based in the offices of Northern DHB Support Agency.**

Address: 650 Great South Road, Penrose

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Fax: +64 9 589 3901

For information on the Network please contact Kirsty on 09 5893937 or email [kirsty.hunter@ndsa.co.nz](mailto:kirsty.hunter@ndsa.co.nz). Team contact details can be found on page 7.

The NDSA supports Auckland, Counties and Waitemata DHBs as funders of health and disability support services, and also provide services to Northland DHB as a client.

For further information on the NDSA go to [www.ndsa.co.nz](http://www.ndsa.co.nz).



Te Poari Tautoko I Nga Rohe Ki Te Raki