



Chairperson's Report

Kia ora koutou,

It has been another very busy year for BCAC and our member groups. With around 3,600 New Zealanders newly diagnosed with breast cancer each year, the need for support, information and advocacy to improve the availability and precision of treatments continues to grow. We acknowledge and celebrate all the great support and services provided by our member groups; we are united in our desire for better experiences and outcomes for everyone diagnosed. Truly, together we're stronger – tangata tū pakari tonu.

As an organisation dedicated to ensuring all Kiwis get the very best treatment and care we are working on many fronts.

Our country continues to lag behind the rest of the world in access to modern cancer medicines, so we've focused on long overdue Pharmac reforms and educating politicians of the need to increase the medicines budget. We worked with Patient Voice Aotearoa to hold the Government to its promise of funding new cancer medicines and progress came with the funding of Enhertu® and Keytruda® for some advanced breast cancers. However, there is a need to extend the availability of both, with Enhertu not yet funded for HER2 low and Keytruda not funded for early breast cancer. A raft of other medicines and their uses for early and advanced breast cancer remain stalled within Pharmac's slow and complex processes. These include Abraxane®, Lynparza®, Perjeta®, Phesgo®, Verzenio®, Kisqali®, Trodelvy®, Afinitor®, Halaven® and Itovebi®. During the year we wrote to Pharmac about many breast cancer medicines, including providing new data on our 2024 Lynparza application for early and advanced BRCAm breast cancer and our 2022 Halaven application for late stage breast cancer. We also encouraged Pharmac to make progress on our 2022 application for Keytruda for early breast cancer. You can read our communications with Pharmac by heading to the Our submissions and applications page of our website.

I participated in two independent workshops of patient representatives, commissioned by the Pharmac Board to identify how Pharmac could improve its relationships with patients and consumers. Dame Kerry Prendergast's Pharmac Consumer Engagement Report on these calls for many changes including better communication and collaboration with stakeholders, increased speed and transparency of assessment and decision processes

and a more respectful organisational culture. These reforms are also reflected in recommendations from the 2022 Pharmac Review as well as a Board commissioned independent Organisational Culture report. We congratulate Pharmac Board Chair, Paula Bennett, for taking a fresh look at Pharmac's culture and operations and for establishing a 12 month Reset Programme and a 5 year Change Programme to modernise the organisation. We also acknowledge the importance of Associate Health Minister (Pharmac) David Seymour's Letters of Expectation 2024 and 2025 that ask Pharmac to improve access to medicines and medical technologies by optimising its processes, building productive partnerships and improving its organisational culture.

As part of its reset, Pharmac has established a Consumer and Patient Working Group to contribute to a new strategic vision for Pharmac, to improve processes and enhance consumer engagement and trust. This group was appointed by patient representatives, is led by outspoken patient advocate Malcolm Mulholland and I am one of the members. We're all very hopeful that we can make a real difference through our patient-focused contributions to Pharmac's strategy, policy and operations.

BCAC submitted on the Pae Ora Amendment Bill, suggesting changes to Pharmac's statutory objectives and functions. We proposed removal of the requirement to "spend within the amount of funding provided" as this is unique to Pharmac and was written in 1993 when Pharmac was established to limit spending on pharmaceuticals. As a Crown Entity Pharmac is already required to be financially responsible and we believe this wording has embedded a culture focused primarily on rationing. We also proposed a new set of functions that would make Pharmac more efficient, timely, communicative, transparent and forward-looking. Imagine an agile and innovative Pharmac, focused not on cost cutting, but on getting the most effective treatments to people fast, when they need them.



BCAC wrote a submission on the Medicines Amendment Bill supporting faster, easier processes to register medicines in NZ when they have already been assessed and registered in two overseas jurisdictions. We proposed that stakeholders such as consumers and clinicians should be able to trigger registration applications, in addition to pharmaceutical companies.

The other vital element in getting modern medicines to people faster is greater Government investment. We visited then Health Minister Dr Shane Reti, Labour Health Spokesperson and former Minister Dr Ayesha Verrall and Act MP Todd Stephenson to make this case. Our Ministerial Briefing also supported establishment of cancer treatment targets and proposed solutions to oncology workforce and capacity issues. It supported breast screening extension to 74 year olds, asked for extension to 40 year olds, and proposed breast density reporting and use of AI for better detection. Our submission advocated for precision health initiatives including genomic testing and we asked for legislation to end genomic discrimination by health and life insurance companies.

We recently met Health Minister Simeon Brown to support improved radiation therapy infrastructure and workforce capacity around the country, including a new linear accelerator for Canterbury, additional staff in Northland and the ability to use private providers when public health system capacity can't meet demand.

Committee members Fay Sowerby and Dr Rachel Greenwood continued to provide patient focused and General Practice input into the BreastScreen Aotearoa (BSA) Action and Equity Group and Fay was also on BSA's Service Standards Expert Group.

Denise Lemmen and Rachel brought an advanced breast cancer (ABC) perspective to the heart of BCAC, with Denise continuing in her role as co-ordinator of the Metavivors NZ and Metavivors NZ Action Facebook groups. Denise provides news, information and support to the Metavivor community and plays a key role in advocating for improved treatments and services. Catrin Devonald as CEO of Sweet Louise organised support and events for women with ABC, advocated on behalf of those with ABC and ensured Sweet Louise staff engaged across the health system to optimise services and patient journeys. Rachel and I contributed to an update of the NZ Treatment Guidelines for Advanced Breast Cancer.



Fay invested many hours as a spokesperson for Against Genomic Discrimination Aotearoa (AGenDA), seeking legislation that would ban the use of genetic information in insurance decisions. This would bring New Zealand in line with the many other countries, including Australia, Canada and the UK, that ban the use of genetic test results to raise premiums, exclude cover, deny insurance, or limit payouts.

Current laws are a deterrent to genetic testing for genes such as BRCA1 in breast cancer, denying people the benefits of early detection and potentially life-saving preventative action. Fay has submitted to a Parliamentary Select Committee and facilitated an education session for MPs on this important topic.

Fay was a consumer representative on the National Breast Cancer QPI (Quality Performance Indicators) Working Group, run by Te Aho o Te Kahu (Cancer Control Agency). This resulted in a Quality Improvement Monitoring Report that provides agreed measures of good care and describes variation in these around the country.



The Breast Cancer Foundation's comprehensive National Register (Te Rehita) was the source of data for this. Te Aho o Te Kahu expects districts to use the report to improve performance and patient outcomes.

Committee member Maria Marama (Ngati Whakaue/Tuhourangi/Kuki Airani) brought a strong Māori perspective to our work as she completed her Masters degree (with distinction) on integrating approaches to breast cancer care. Maria contributed her knowledge and experience in many contexts including a Te Whatu Ora Advisory Group on Breast and Cervical Cancer, a book chapter on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and Cancer and as a speaker at an international Indigenous Conference.

Emma Crowley continued her work supporting expanded access to breast cancer clinical trials through her roles for Cancer Trials NZ and Breast Cancer Trials (Australia and NZ). Fay and I represented consumers at meetings of BSIG, a multi-disciplinary specialist group focused on breast cancer, and at the NZ Familial Breast and Ovarian Cancer Trust. Committee members attended breast cancer research conferences online and in person to ensure we kept up to date with the latest breakthroughs and evolving practice in breast cancer treatment.

Louise Malone our Treasurer has been busy keeping our books, writing news items and quarterly newsletters and updating our website content. She also compiles and distributes the 1400 BCAC Step by Step support packs we send out each year as well as attending research conferences and meeting with Pharmac and pharmaceutical companies.

Rowena Mortimer and Emma provided vital legal advice to BCAC enabling us to update our constitution and comply with the new requirements of the Charities Act and Incorporated Societies Act. Tanya Newman helped with updates on counselling services and compiling BCAC's Step by Step support packs.

Ah-Leen Rayner engaged on a multitude of fronts in her role as Breast Cancer Foundation's CE, while Philippa Reed connected us to CanTeen Aotearoa and their work for young people dealing with cancer. Alvina maintained BCAC's strong connection to the Aotearoa NZ Breast Cancer Community Trust.

New committee member Liz Pennington provides a valuable link to Breast Cancer Support Aotearoa, which offers peer support for people with breast cancer throughout New Zealand.

I'm hugely grateful to each and every committee member for their hard work, passion and commitment to reducing the impact of a breast cancer diagnosis on the lives of New Zealanders. BCAC will continue to work tirelessly for access to the very best treatments, care and support, with the ultimate aim of ensuring that no more lives are cut short by breast cancer.

Wishing our members, colleagues and supporters all the very best,

Arohanui

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Libby Burgess". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Libby Burgess MNZM

BCAC Chair

Together we're stronger
Tangata tū pakari tonu

BCAC is an umbrella organisation representing more than 30 breast cancer-related groups in New Zealand. Our role is to support, inform and represent people with breast cancer. We are committed to transforming the lives of those diagnosed with breast cancer by seeking world-class detection, treatment and care.

Key Achievements in 2025

Information and resources

- Delivered more than 1400 Step by Step support packs to New Zealanders newly diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Provided information on breast cancer diagnosis, treatment and recovery via our website www.breastcancer.org.nz
- Delivered up-to-date breast cancer news, research results and events via our website (71,000 page views) and Facebook page (29,000 reached).
- Delivered a regular e-newsletter to nearly 1300 subscribers.
- Supported nearly 3000 New Zealanders through BCAC's main Facebook page and more than 600 members in our public Facebook group.
- Supported more than 600 New Zealanders with advanced breast cancer through the online communities Metavivors NZ and Metavivors NZ – Action.
- Sent out brochures and posters promoting the Metavivors NZ online peer support group.
- Provided new information on HER2 positive breast cancer, access to new medicines, targeted drug therapy, endocrine therapy, wigs and prostheses via our website.
- Responded to more than 100 queries through the BCAC website and Facebook page.

Providing a voice for those diagnosed with breast cancer

BCAC Committee Members participate in a number of consumer and specialist breast cancer groups throughout New Zealand to ensure breast cancer patients are represented in the health system. We also engage in other activities and projects designed to raise the voices of those diagnosed with breast cancer.

- During the year, BCAC Committee Members met with Hon. Dr Shane Reti, then Minister of Health, Hon. Dr Ayesha Verrall, Shadow Minister of Health, Todd Stephenson MP, ACT party health spokesperson, and representatives of Te Aho o Te Kahu Cancer Control Agency to discuss improving access to breast cancer medicines.



- BCAC Chair Libby Burgess represented New Zealand breast cancer patients at two independent workshops commissioned by the Pharmac Board to examine Pharmac's engagement with consumers, including consumers' perceptions and experiences of engaging with Pharmac and its processes, and to identify areas for reform. She is now a member of Pharmac's newly-formed Consumer and Patient Working Group.
- During 2025 BCAC Committee Members attended regular stakeholder meetings with Pharmac's new Acting Chief Executive.
- BCAC Secretary Fay Sowerby continued to act as a consumer representative on the National Breast Cancer QPI (Quality Performance Indicators) Working Group, run by Te Aho o Te Kahu, to develop abbreviated professional standards for breast cancer treatment in New Zealand.
- As a result of this work, Te Aho o Te Kahu has released: Breast Cancer Quality Performance Indicator Descriptions, Breast Cancer Quality Performance Indicator Technical Specifications and the Breast Cancer Quality Improvement Monitoring Report 2025.
- BCAC had regular meetings with BreastScreen Aotearoa (BSA) to receive updates and provide consumer input and perspectives.
- Committee Members Fay Sowerby and Dr Rachel Greenwood continued to represent New Zealanders with breast cancer on the BSA Action and Equity Group. Fay was also appointed to the BSA Service Standards Expert Group.
- Throughout the year, BCAC Committee Members met with Pharmac and with pharmaceutical company representatives to discuss specific issues with medicines affecting breast cancer patients, e.g. funding applications for new medicines and changes to packaging of existing ones.
- BCAC provided consumer representation on the Breast Special Interest Group (BSIG) of breast cancer specialists, with BCAC Chair Libby Burgess and Secretary Fay Sowerby attending BSIG meetings this year.
- BCAC also represented consumers on the New Zealand Familial Breast and Ovarian Cancer Group of specialists, with Fay and Libby regularly attending their meetings.
- BCAC Deputy Chair Emma Crowley continued to represent New Zealanders with breast cancer as a member of the Consumer Advisory Panel of Breast Cancer Trials.
- Emma also continued as Chair of the Consumer Advisory Panel of Cancer Trials NZ.
- BCAC is fully supportive of and continues to collaborate with Patient Voice Aotearoa on actions to improve access to medicines for patients with a wide range of treatable diseases in our country.
- BCAC is a member of the ABC Global Alliance, a European-based organization dedicated to improving and extending the lives of women and men living with advanced breast cancer worldwide.
- BCAC supported many women as they negotiated the health system to secure timely and appropriate detection, diagnosis, treatment and care.



Improving access to world class treatment and care

- In July 2024, BCAC responded to Pharmac's proposal to fund Keytruda (pembrolizumab) for advanced triple negative breast cancer (TNBC), asking that the proposed wording be amended to ensure inclusion of all those with locally advanced TNBC, whether their disease is recurrent or de novo. We also urged Pharmac to urgently fund this vital immunotherapy for those with early stage TNBC.
- In July 2024, BCAC applied to Pharmac to list olaparib (Lynparza) on the Pharmaceutical Schedule, i.e. to fund it, for early and advanced BRCA-mutated HER2 negative early and advanced breast cancer.
- In September 2024, BCAC responded to Pharmac's proposal to fund trastuzumab deruxtecan (Enhertu®) for advanced HER2 positive breast cancer, providing evidence for extending the criteria for eligibility and noting an ongoing role for trastuzumab emtansine (Kadcyla®).
- In November 2024, BCAC wrote to Pharmac asking them to reverse their decision to decline eribulin (Halaven®) as a treatment option for advanced breast cancer, as this would essentially take this medicine "off their books". Any future consideration of this medicine would then require a completely new application. We also sent a summary of all the new evidence for eribulin's benefits that has been published since our original application in 2022.
- In January 2025, BCAC responded to a Pharmac consultation on a brand switch of palbociclib. This consultation caused much concern among Metavivors NZ who are stable on this medicine for advanced breast cancer and worried that the new version would be less effective. On further investigation we discovered the medicine would be exactly the same, with the same excipients and active ingredient, made by the same company at the same manufacturing plant. Only the packaging would change after the patent expired. We were able to reassure those who were concerned and urged both Pharmac and Pfizer to inform us earlier (we had only two days' notice) and to provide better information about the nature of any such change in future.



- In January 2025, BCAC wrote to Pharmac with new information to update our application for funding for olaparib for BRCA mutated early and advanced breast cancer. We expanded our application to include those with PALB2 pathogenic variants and somatic BRCA1 and 2 mutations in addition to the previously requested germline mutations. We noted that Australia has funded olaparib for both early (July 2024) and advanced (Jan 2025) BRCA-mutated breast cancer.
- Throughout the year, BCAC continued to meet with representatives of pharmaceutical companies, encouraging them to supply New Zealanders with modern breast cancer medicines at affordable prices, by registering new medicines with Medsafe, applying to Pharmac for funding and setting up cost-share programmes when medicines are only available privately.



- In response to issues raised by women receiving treatment, BCAC also questioned suppliers over prices and packaging/formulation changes. Medicines discussed this year included pembrolizumab (Keytruda® MSD), abemaciclib (Verzenio® Eli Lilly), tucatanib (Tukysa® Pfizer), trastuzumab deruxtecan (Enhertu® AstraZeneca). Ribociclib (Kisqali® Novartis), and pertuzumab combined with trastuzumab (Phesgo® Roche).
- Between April and June 2025, BCAC Committee Members worked with Breast Cancer Foundation staff to produce a media release highlighting the need for Enhertu® for HER2-low and olaparib for BRCA-mutated breast cancer patients.
- In May 2025, BCAC's Fay Sowerby wrote a submission on the Medicines Amendment Bill and presented it to the Health Select Committee in June.
- In June 2025, BCAC responded to Pharmac's proposal to tender for fulvestrant.
- BCAC, Sweet Louise, Breast Cancer Cure and the Breast Cancer Foundation met in March 2025 to discuss closer collaboration.
- Libby Burgess and Rachel Greenwood represented BCAC at a meeting with clinicians to discuss the next version of guidelines for the treatment of advanced breast cancer in New Zealand, ABC NZ3.
- Libby Burgess, Fay Sowerby and Ah-Leen Rayner featured in a magazine article highlighting the need for improvements in breast cancer treatment in New Zealand.
- In June 2025, BCAC joined with others to advocate for the purchase of new linear accelerators for cancer patients needing radiation therapy in Canterbury.
- BCAC Secretary Fay Sowerby has continued to work closely with AGenDA - Against Genomic Discrimination Aotearoa – a group aimed at ensuring that New Zealanders will be able to receive the health benefits of genomic information, without risks to their insurance status. As part of this work, Fay has met with the Financial Services Council, contributed to a submission on the Contracts of Insurance Bill and helped to present it to the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee, contributed to media coverage of this issue, and met with Todd Stephenson MP, ACT party health spokesperson, and Scott Simpson, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

- BCAC has continued to actively promote the concept of risk-based breast screening. With this approach, women are given different schedules and types of routine screening based on an assessment of their personal risk of breast cancer, instead of the one-size-fits-all approach used currently by BreastScreen Aotearoa. Secretary Fay Sowerby has taken the lead in this, meeting with relevant stakeholders throughout the year.
- BCAC has continued to participate in discussions with various stakeholders interested in bringing precision healthcare to New Zealanders with breast cancer.
- BCAC Committee Members met with New Zealand breast cancer researchers to provide consumer input into their projects as well as letters of support to funders for worthy projects.
- BCAC Committee Members attended conferences and meetings (in person and online) throughout the year to remain up-to-date with breast cancer science and clinical practice. These included:
 - Breast Cancer Trials Annual Scientific Meetings in Cairns in July 2024 and in Hobart in July 2025
 - New Zealand Society for Oncology (NZSO) conference, October 2024
 - European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Breast Cancer Annual Congress, May 2025
 - American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), June 2025
 - San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, December 2024.

Improving outcomes for Māori and Pasifika women

- BCAC continued to advocate for removing barriers and improving access to breast cancer screening, diagnosis, treatments and reconstruction options for Māori, Pasifika, rural and disadvantaged women. We encouraged healthcare providers and Pharmac to facilitate delivery of services and treatments close to home.
- BCAC provided Step by Step support packs to Māori health providers supporting Māori with breast cancer throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.
- BCAC Committee Member Maria Marama provided a Māori perspective and advised on a wide range of issues relating to ethnic equity in NZ breast cancer care.



Step by Step - Feedback in 2025



"Excellent. It is clear, informative, caring and practical. I felt like I was being welcomed into a network/family/sisterhood, which was very comforting. Thank you."

"Wonderful resources. The book provided good information as well as tips to find additional support or information."

"I just wanted to say a huge 'Thank you' for my 'Step by Step' support pack. I really, really appreciate it."

"Thank you very much for putting all this information together. It is a great resource! I am still working through it all but it has been a great help."

"Blimmin amazing! Thanks so much guys I appreciated your pack so much xoxo"

"Much appreciated and just wanted to let you know it has assisted me to navigate my first few steps in this new world I've entered"

"I like it. Good, up-to-date info on cancer, the diary is comprehensive. Using journal for exercise notes/fitness tracking."

"It is absolutely amazing!"

"Have just started reading all the material, but the diary is magic. Already being used."

"This is a great resource, thank you so much."

"Excellent variety of information. Clearly written and presented."

"It is amazing! Such a helpful resource."

"Thank you for sending us supplies of these beautiful packs. Most of our patients are now using them and they all love them. Keep up the great work! Thank you for your magnificent service for our breast cancer patients."

Those serving on the BCAC committee during 2025 were:

Chair:	Libby Burgess	
Deputy Chair:	Emma Crowley	
Secretary:	Fay Sowerby	
Treasurer:	Louise Malone	
Committee Members:	Ah-Leen Rayner	Liz Pennington
	Alvina Sciascia-Bizaoui	Philippa Reed
	Catrin Devonald	Rachel Greenwood
	Denise Lemmen	Rowena Mortimer
	Maria Marama	Tanya Newman

In July 2025 we welcomed Liz Pennington, Chair of BCAC member group Breast Cancer Support Aotearoa, to the Committee.

In addition to the wide-ranging representation outlined earlier in this report, BCAC Committee Members have been involved in many other committees, conferences and meetings in 2024/25, all with the aim of improving breast cancer care in New Zealand.

Libby Burgess, Chairperson



- Consumer representative: Breast Special Interest Group (BSIG)
- Affiliate member of Breast Cancer Trials; attended BCT Annual Scientific Meetings in July 2024 and July 2025
- Regularly corresponded and met with Pharmac and Medsafe and responded to consultations on Pharmac advisory committees, operations and medicines funding proposals
- Met with former Minister of Health Hon. Dr Shane Reti, Labour health spokesperson Hon. Dr Ayesha Verrall, ACT health spokesperson Todd Stephenson to discuss improving access to medicines
- Attended a number of meetings with pharmaceutical companies seeking timely, affordable access to breast cancer medicines for New Zealand patients
- Participated in workshops commissioned by the Pharmac Board to examine Pharmac's engagement with consumers, including consumers' perceptions and experiences of engaging with Pharmac and its processes, and to identify areas for reform

- Attended meetings of the New Zealand Familial Breast and Ovarian Cancer Group
- Met regularly with BreastScreen Aotearoa (BSA)
- Met regularly with Patient Voice Aotearoa representatives to advocate for better access to cancer medicines
- Attended a preliminary meeting to discuss updating guidelines for the treatment of advanced breast cancer, ABC NZ3
- Attended the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium online in December 2024 as a consumer advocate
- Supported many women negotiating the health system and seeking timely access to breast cancer medicines and other treatments
- Appointed to Pharmac's Consumer and Patient Working Group.

Emma Crowley, Deputy Chairperson



- Chair of the consumer advisory panel of Cancer Trials NZ
- Member of the Consumer Advisory Panel of Breast Cancer Trials
- Appeared in a video about patients in clinical research
- Attended Breast Cancer Trials Annual Scientific Meetings in July 2024 and July 2025.

Fay Sowerby, Secretary



- Chair of Breast Cancer Cure
- Member of the National Breast Cancer QPI Working Group; contributed to a monitoring report published in July 2025
- Member of the BSA Action and Equity Group, working on a range of topics, including Te Puna roll out and a move to opt out versus opt in for breast screening registration, extension of the screening age from 69 - 74 (attended pilot launch in Nelson), breast density and how to increase screening participation, screening campaigns and sharing information as required
- Member BSA Service Standards Expert Group, working with a group from throughout the country to develop, review and agree new Service Standards
- Attended BSIG meetings, presenting on the roll out of the mainstreaming genetic testing pilot across four regions
- Affiliate member of Breast Cancer Trials
- Member of the University of Auckland research Rōpū as consumer, facilitating introductions and agreeing to be a consumer representative on projects

- Ministry of Health, Precision Health initiatives, networking as required
- Attended several meetings with pharmaceutical companies
- Attended meetings and interacted with Pharmac staff and leaders
- Provided input into Te Whatu Ora Genomics Operational Strategy
- Served on an International BRCA Cancer Patients Insight Advisory Board
- Met and worked with several local and international breast cancer researchers seeking consumer input into their projects. Member of a global breast cancer research team who submitted an EOI to the Grand Challenge and Advisory Committee member for another large breast cancer research project
- Against Genomic Discrimination Aotearoa (AGenDA) member of the Financial Services Council Working Group with geneticists and representatives from the Financial Services Council
- Alongside Prof. Andrew Shelling of AGenDA successfully submitted to the Contracts of Insurance Bill to achieve a Genetic Testing in Insurance regulation, Sub Part 4A and subsection 86B
- Spoke on Nine to Noon, interviewed alongside Andrew Shelling, and spoke to other media regarding genomic discrimination in insurance with interviews in the Post, Law Daily and News Hub
- Met with Hon. Scott Simpson Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and MBIE officials in preparation for a consultation on the Genetic Testing in Insurance Regulation soon to be initiated
- Attended and presented at New Zealand Familial Breast and Ovarian Cancer Group meetings. Member of a research team (REACH) seeking to implement an audit alongside mainstreaming of genetic testing for breast cancer
- Submitted to the Medicines Amendment Bill and appeared before the Health Select Committee
- Developed a draft paper and instigated a meeting with six oncologists with a focus on molecular testing, priorities and preferences
- Chair of DPYD (GenoMoCare) steering committee focusing on mainstreaming and audit protocols for a pilot in Northland to embed genetic testing pathways
- Attended NZSO conference
- Attended San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium online in December 2024
- Attended the 2024 ESMO Breast Cancer Annual Congress
- Attended monthly Research to Practice and ESMO webinars on topics of interest
- Provided support to breast cancer patients, including speaking to media about access to olaparib and trastuzumab deruxtecan for HER2-low breast cancer.

Together we're stronger
Tangata tū pakari tonu



Louise Malone, Treasurer

- Responsible for keeping accounts and reporting on BCAC's financial performance
- Responsible for distribution of Step by Step support packs
- Attended meetings with pharmaceutical companies
- Wrote news articles and updated information on BCAC's website
- Wrote BCAC's quarterly e newsletter
- Affiliate Member of Breast Cancer Trials; attended the Annual Scientific Meeting in July 2025.



Ah-Leen Rayner, Committee Member

- Chief Executive of the Breast Cancer Foundation NZ, a BCAC member.



Alvina Sciascia-Bizaoui, Committee Member

- Represents BCAC member group, Aotearoa New Zealand Breast Cancer Community Trust.



Catrin Devonald, Committee Member

- Chief Executive of BCAC member group, Sweet Louise
- Involved in various initiatives to support women with advanced breast cancer (ABC)
- Organised the first celebration event for women with ABC in NZ to coincide with International Breast Cancer Awareness Day October '24
- Attended meetings with Patient Voice Aotearoa and other breast cancer organisations to further support and advocate for ABC patients
- Met with pharmaceutical companies wanting to organise campaigns to highlight ABC
- Completed a Patient Experience Journey Mapping Project for ABC / metastatic patients (with Deloitte and the Breast Cancer Foundation)
- Sweet Louise representatives attended: NZ Initiative Health Summit , Breast Cancer Foundation Breast Care Nurse Study Day, Cancer Society – In pursuit of innovation
- Sweet Louise's Head of Member Services Lorraine Bailey is a member of the ABC-NZ treatment guidelines group.

Denise Lemmen, Committee Member



- Co-ordinates Metavivors NZ and Metavivors NZ – Action Facebook groups
- Co-ordinated Metavivors NZ actions in relation to medicines access
- Identifies upcoming research and clinical trials in New Zealand and Australia and makes Metavivors aware of these
- Brings relevant petitions and information regarding Pharmac changes to the attention of Metavivors
- Makes every effort to meet with Metavivors when travelling
- Helped to identify women with advanced breast cancer willing to share their stories to publicise problems with access to breast cancer medicines and other treatments
- Supported women negotiating the health system and seeking timely access to medicines and other treatments
- Provides regular support and oversight to the Treasurer in keeping BCAC's accounts.

Maria Marama, Committee Member



- Provides a Māori perspective; advocates for removing barriers, improving access to diagnosis, treatments and reconstruction options for Māori
- Member, Māori Breast and Cervical Cancer Advisory Group, Te Whatu Ora. Involved in release of videos designed to connect with wāhine Maori and their whanau to increase screening rates
- Member, Decentralised Clinical Trials Advisory Group, Auckland University
- Contributor to Book: Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and Cancer. Chapter Title: Expression of My Mana Motuhake (Self-Agency) to Guide Breast Cancer Recovery
- Māori Researcher, completed research "He Oranga U" (formerly Ma Hinewaikōpua e whakahou), Health Research Council
- Awarded her Master's degree with distinction (exploring integration of traditional and complementary approaches to cancer care within conventional breast cancer treatment for wāhine Māori)
- Speaker at the International Network of Indigenous Health, Knowledge and Development - Reclaiming Indigenous Ecologies of Love Conference, New Mexico, USA, April 2025. Whakapapa o te Aroha: Māori Women Survivors' Perspectives on Reclaiming Indigenous Ecologies of Love through a Kaupapa Māori Lens
- Contributed to the design of the Breast Cancer Foundation/Deloitte/ Sweet Louise Patient Experience Journey Mapping Project, ensuring Māori perspectives were taken into account, especially whakawhanaungatanga with participants before they contribute and also what will happen to the data obtained
- Provided feedback on BSA's Breast Cancer Screening Service Standards.



Liz Pennington, Committee Member

- Represents BCAC member group, Breast Cancer Support Aotearoa



Philippa Reed, Committee Member

- Partnerships Manager of BCAC member group Canteen Aotearoa
- Canteen Aotearoa supports rangatahi (13-24) impacted by cancer, whether it's a diagnosis of their own or cancer in their whānau.



Rachel Greenwood, Committee Member

- RNZCGP endorsed General Practice representative member of the BreastScreen Aotearoa Action and Equity Group
- Attended a preliminary meeting to discuss updating guidelines for the treatment of advanced breast cancer, ABC NZ3
- Provides a physician's and patient's perspective on breast cancer
- Provides a voice for women with advanced breast cancer.



Rowena Mortimer, Committee Member

- Provided legal advice for BCAC to comply with new requirements of the Charities Act and Incorporated Societies Act
- Helped to revise BCAC's Constitution
- Ensured BCAC re-registered with the Companies Office.



Tanya Newman, Committee Member

- Certified Radical Remission health coach and facilitator
- NZAC registered counsellor
- Updated information on BCAC's website
- Provides links to counselling services.



Supporters

BCAC has once again received generous and kind support from a number of organisations and individuals during our 2024/2025 financial year.

We are especially grateful to our regular donors and those who have donated in memory of others with breast cancer.

BCAC was very grateful to receive a bequest this year from the estate of SB Campbell.

BCAC's relationship with The Good Registry, an organisation that helps people to give charitable donations as gifts, has continued to thrive this year. We have been very grateful for the regular donations we have received from them and their 'givers' this year.

A grant was received from pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca for Fay Sowerby's participation in their BRCA Cancer Patients Insight Advisory Board.

As always, we have been touched and extremely grateful for donations received throughout the year from members of the public.

BCAC thanks all these organisations and individuals who have supported us this year and made our work and achievements for New Zealanders possible.





BCAC Member Groups

BCAC is proud to work closely with all our members from the community to improve detection, care and treatment for all New Zealanders with breast cancer. Along with many individual members, BCAC is made up of more than 30 breast cancer related groups.

Age Concern
Alleviate
Aotearoa NZ Breast Cancer Community Trust
Ascot Radiology Pink Dragons
Boobops Dragon Boat Team
Breast Cancer Action Trust
Breast Cancer Cure
Breast Cancer Foundation New Zealand
Breast Cancer Research Trust
Breast Cancer Support Aotearoa
Breast Cancer Support Northland Trust
Breast Cancer Support Service Tauranga Trust
Busting with Life
CanTeen Aotearoa
Horowhenua Pink Ladies BCS Group
Kenzie's Gift
Look Good Feel Better
Lymphoedema Support Network
Mamazon Club
Metavivors NZ
Mindfulness Aotearoa
Pinc Cancer Rehabilitation Program
Rotorua Breast Cancer Trust
Shocking Pink
Support Crew
Sweet Louise
Taranaki Dragons
Te Ha o Te Oranga o Ngati Whatua
Terrier Race Against Time
The Gift of Knowledge
Waikato Treasure Chests
Well Women and Family Trust



BREAST CANCER ACTION TRUST



Together we're stronger
Tangata tū pakari tonu

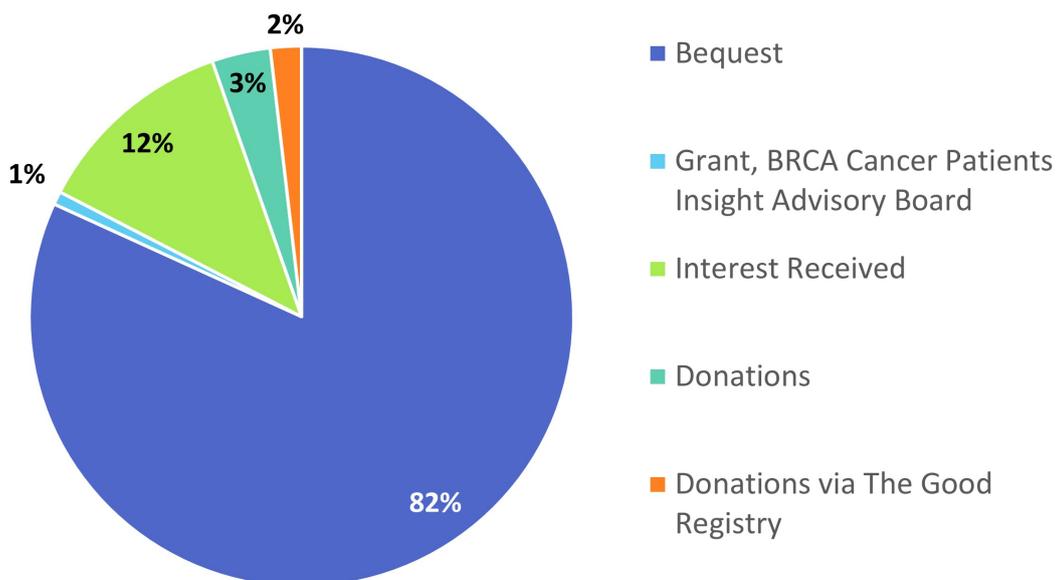


Financials

BCAC Revenue 2024/25

Funding Source	Amount (\$)
Bequest	\$148,832
Grant, BRCA Patients Insight Advisory Board	\$1,434
Interest Received	\$21,929
Donations	\$6,330
Donations via The Good Registry	\$3,350
Total Income	\$181,875

BCAC Revenue to 31 March 2025



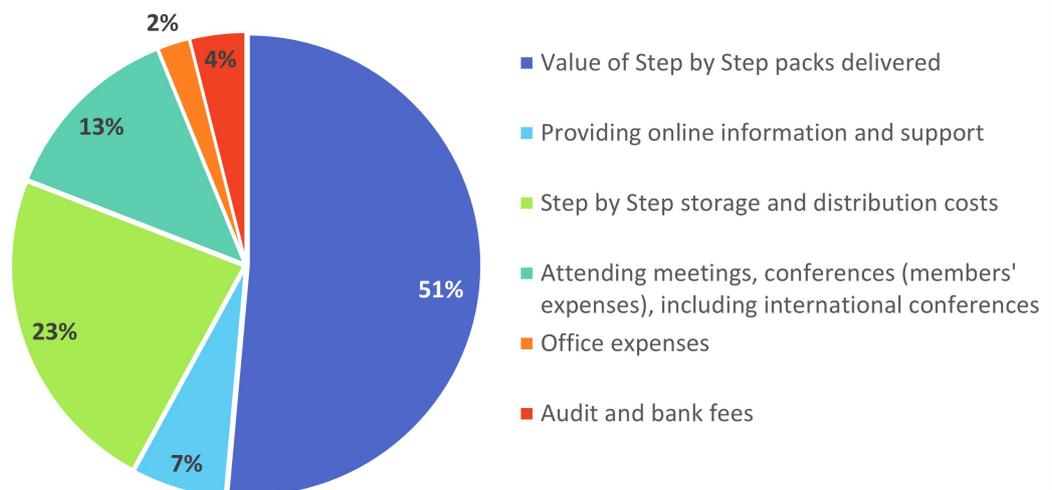


Financials

BCAC Expenses 2024/25

Expenses	Amount (\$)
Value of Step by Step packs delivered	\$23,437
Providing online information and support	\$2,962
Step by Step storage and distribution costs	\$10,498
Attending meetings, conferences (members' expenses), including international conferences	\$5,899
Office expenses	\$1,016
Audit and bank fees	\$1,770
Total Expenses	\$45,582

BCAC Expenditure to 31 March 2025





Plans for 2026

FOR 2026, OUR ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:

To make world class detection, treatment and care accessible to all affected by breast cancer in New Zealand

- Continue engagement with decision makers at all levels
- Continue to update our knowledge of effective treatments through interaction with medical experts and attendance at research meetings
- Support the establishment and implementation of Quality Performance Indicators for breast cancer
- Support the development and implementation of NZ Guidelines for Advanced Breast Cancer
- Raise awareness of new and emerging medicines and the need for increased medicines funding
- Meet with Pharmac to champion access to new and innovative medicines proven to deliver results
- Meet with pharmaceutical companies and encourage them to import and register their innovative medicines in New Zealand, apply for Medsafe registration and Pharmac funding and offer them at affordable prices in cost-share patient access programmes and free of charge to patients when funding is imminent
- Provide consumer input to BreastScreen Aotearoa's (BSA) Action and Equity Group, including the BSA Review and Breast Density Review



- Support the development of Service Standards for breast cancer screening
- Continually review the performance of the Cancer Control Agency Te Aho o Te Kahu and provide patient-focused input
- Advocate for new ways that breast cancer care can be provided to improve outcomes
- Consult, engage with, empower and, when appropriate, represent Māori and Pasifika women on breast issues and advocate for actions needed to increase access to services, and improve breast cancer experiences and outcomes
- Increase education and knowledge of breast cancer, treatments, supportive care and emerging clinical trial results by attending and promoting local and international expert meetings and conferences
- Advocate for the establishment of schemes enabling early and broader medicines access
- Engage and network with the key stakeholders across the health system to encourage and support consumer, Māori, and Pacific involvement and participation in breast cancer clinical research and its translation by partnering at a governance, local/regional level
- Continue networking and collaboration among groups and individuals.



To provide information and support to empower those with breast cancer to make informed choices about their treatment and care

- Widely distribute Step by Step to women newly diagnosed with breast cancer throughout New Zealand
- Provide information and support for those with early and advanced breast cancer
- Provide up to date information via our website about breast cancer and our advocacy work
- Communicate with the breast cancer community via our Facebook page and group
- Continue to support the Metavivors NZ and Metavivors NZ –Action Facebook groups
- Distribute news and information via our e-newsletter to hundreds of subscribers
- Share findings of breast cancer research through our website and social media
- Respond to requests for information and support.



To provide a unified evidence-based voice for New Zealanders who have experienced breast cancer

- Advocate for timely access to world-class breast care, including treatments and supportive care in New Zealand
- Raise awareness of advanced breast cancer and related needs for support and services
- Actively participate in a wide range of local, regional and national and international breast cancer-related working groups, panels, committees, organisations and conferences
- Respond to consultation opportunities relating to breast cancer
- Provide a public voice through ongoing liaison with media, interviews and media releases
- Support and promote initiatives enabling the early detection of breast cancer such as mammographic screening, breast density reporting and breast awareness by meeting regularly with BreastScreen Aotearoa to encourage continual progress with the national breast screening programme, including broadening the eligible age band and ensuring the backlog of screening caused by Covid-19 related issues is adequately addressed
- Provide information and comment on the most effective ways to achieve early detection.

To support the activities of BCAC through promotion and fundraising

- Apply for grants from charitable trusts
- Approach businesses for funding to support specific projects and activities
- Welcome public donations via our website and newsletters.



Together we're stronger
Tangata tū pakari tonu



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