

Report for ANZHNCS For the financial year ended 31 March 2026

Staff

We are saddened by the resignation of our Chief Executive Amelia Jenkinson who has now returned to the UK with her family. We are grateful for Amelia's enormous contribution during her tenure with the Head and Neck Cancer Foundation Aotearoa (HNCFA). We are delighted that Suzanne Giddens has joined the HNCFA as Chief Executive. We are grateful for Sue's experience, capability and contributions, so far

Collaboration

The HNCFA continues to work collaboratively with other entities to achieve our shared goals, including Te Whatu Ora (Health New Zealand), Sexually Transmitted Infections Education Foundation (STIEF), Head and Neck Cancer Support Aotearoa (HNCSA), Cancer Society of New Zealand and other health and research organisations to promote awareness and advocacy to reduce the burden of head and neck cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Research

In the last financial year, findings of the research project - Health Economy Study on the Cost of HPV-related Cancers in New Zealand, commissioned and funded by HNCFA, has been published in *BMJ Public Health* 2026;4:e003800.

<https://bmjpublichealth.bmj.com/content/bmjph/4/2/e003800.full.pdf>

Trustees Drs Swee Tan, Cathy Stephenson, Dean Ruske, Andrew Macann and John Chaplin, and former Chief Executive Amelia Jenkinson, comprised a steering committee alongside Dr Hayley Denison of the University of Victoria, Prof Peter Sykes of the University of Otago, and Dr Eric Ji from the Wellington Cancer Centre to work collaboratively with Sapere Research Group on this project. The report quantifies, for the first time, the economic burden of HPV-related cancers in New Zealand. Findings of the project have been presented at various forum during the last financial year.

The publication in *BMJ Public Health* was a subject of the lead health story of Radio New Zealand featuring an interview with Dr Swee Tan on 13 May 2026:

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/health/595007/vaccine-preventable-hpv-cancers-cost-country-more-than-130m-in-four-years>

Advocacy

On the World Head and Neck Cancer Day 2025, the HNCFA wrote to Health Minister the Hon Simeon Brown conveying findings of the Health Economy Study on the Cost of HPV-related Cancers in New Zealand project, and advocating for improved HPV vaccination rate.

Following publication of the findings of the Health Economy Study on the Cost of HPV-related Cancers in New Zealand project, the HNCFA submitted a briefing paper to Minister Brown, requesting a meeting with the Minister to advocate for the Government's commitment to a 90% HPV vaccination target for both females and males by 2030.

Findings of the Health Economy Study on the Cost of HPV-related Cancers in New Zealand paper was presented at the Cancer Society of New Zealand's Eliminating Cervical Cancer Strategy and Action Plan Summit in March 2026, by Dr Swee Tan who was invited to speak. The HNCFA advocates for a 90% HPV vaccination target for both females and males by 2030.

Drs Tan and Sam Murton attended the Cancer Society of New Zealand's 2026 Election Manifesto held at Parliament House which centred on eliminating cervical cancer.

Sue Giddens and Dr Tan continue to work collaboratively with Cancer Society of New Zealand in relation to the Cervical Cancer Elimination Campaign, which is in line with the HNCFA's aim to promote high HPV vaccination rate in both genders.

Dr Tan and Dr Sam Murton met with the National Director Prevention – Immunisation & Health Target Lead and Medical Director of Public Health Service, to discuss strategies for improving HPV vaccination rates. We are pleased to see the implementation of a number of our proposed strategies to achieve a high HPV vaccination rate, so far.

The Foundation was contacted by the UK-based ElevenLabs which offers voice banking software for patients who undergo laryngectomies, free. Of charge. The HNCFA in collaboration with HNCSA had liaised with the Speech Language Therapists Association which is best placed to manage patient access to the software in New Zealand

Education

The article *Health Economy Study on the Cost of HPV-related Cancers in New Zealand*, was published in *BMJ Public Health* as an open access article making it freely available to the public, healthcare professionals, researchers, government officials and policy makers.

To increased awareness of New Zealand's HPV poor vaccination rates and the need to improve vaccination uptakes, the HNCFA participated in meetings with health officials, health campaigns, conferences and educational forum in which the findings of the HPV Health Economy Study were presented:

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Dr John Chaplin presented at the Northern Region Head and Neck Cancer Service Meeting in April 2025.

Dr Sabrina Koh presented at the New Zealand Plastic Surgery Trainees' Conference Meeting in June 2025.

Dr Koh also presented at the Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society Annual Scientific Meeting in Brisbane in August 2025.

Drs Dean Ruske and John Chaplin presented at the GPCME Conferences in Rotorua and Christchurch in June and August 2025.

Dr Tan presented the findings at the GP conference in Christchurch and the NZ Dental Association Meeting in Wellington in July 2025.

Leading to the World Head and Neck Cancer Day, Drs Sam Murton, John Chaplin, Dean Ruske and Andrew Macann participated in a webinar hosted by Mobile Health on the topics of Head and Neck cancer, HPV-related HNC, and our recent health economy study.

Dr Swee Tan was invited to deliver a presentation at the education session of Public Health Nurses, Immunisation Team of Te Whatu Ora Capital, Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa, and external Immunisation Providers, in February 2026

Dr Swee Tan was invited to deliver a presentation at the National Gynaecology and Colposcopy Study Day, in March 2026

Fundraising

On the World Head and Neck Cancer Day the HNCFA High Tea Honeys, in partnership with the HNCFA, hosted *pro bono* the *Mad Hatter High Tea* to raise funds and increase the profile of head and neck cancer at Zephyr Café in Wellington. A number of items were donated with Brian Sheppard being the Auctioneer. The event raised \$8497.

In addition, a Top Gun Film Screening fundraiser was held in Auckland, in collaboration with HNCSA. \$3,097 was raised.

We thank Amelia Jenkinson and many others for their great efforts



HEAD AND NECK
CANCER FOUNDATION OF AOTEAROA

PO Box 10048
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

Finances

The Foundation currently has \$126,265 in the bank. A Performance Report for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2026, prepared by Bakertilly Staples Rodway, was approved at the AGM and filed with the Charities Services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Swee Tan', with a stylized, flowing script.

Swee Tan ONZM MBBS FRACS PhD
Chair
Head and Neck Cancer Foundation Aotearoa

Addendum:

On the World Head and Neck Cancer Day 2026, the Minister of Health Simeon Brown co-hosted the Launch of the HNCFA's HPV Vaccination Roadmap at the New Zealand Parliament, attended by our partners HNCSA and STIEF, and broad representation of health leadership and stakeholders. This underscores the commitment and implementation of 90% HPV vaccination rate by 2030. This will be subject to the 2027 report.