

## Child Cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand: Exploring the utility of administrative data in child cancer research

**Background:** The New Zealand Child Cancer Registry (NZCCR) is an opt-out registry containing information about children diagnosed and/or treated for cancer in New Zealand. The registry has been used to support research, service delivery and planning of paediatric oncology care across the motu. Another potential source of data, yet to be explored in child cancer research is administrative data. Administrative data are data collected for the purpose of service delivery across a range of public services, not only health, creating possibilities for exploring relationships between a diagnosis of cancer early in life and broader social outcomes.

**Aim:** The primary aim of this project is to develop a method for identifying a cohort of individuals that were diagnosed with a paediatric cancer in childhood and compare this with the NZCCR population to comment on the quality, strengths, and weaknesses of each dataset. The secondary aim of the project is to explore the relationship between childhood cancer diagnoses and select social or health outcomes.

**Method:** This project will involve data linkage and quantitative analysis using data stored within Statistics New Zealand's Integrated Data Infrastructure, and analysis of data from the New Zealand Child Cancer Registry.

**Supervision:** This project will be supervised by Dr Andy Wood (Paediatric Haematologist Oncologist & Chair of NZCCR Working Group) and Annie Chiang (Research & Professional Teaching Fellow, Database Manager for NZCCR).

**Ideal Candidate:** The ideal candidate will have a passion for children's health and health equity. The supervision team and funders are eager to support capacity building in child cancer research. While experience with statistics and quantitative research is preferred, the ideal candidate will be eager to develop new technical skills. This project will require access to Statistics New Zealand's Integrated Data Infrastructure, which includes undergoing confidentiality training and passing referee checks. We are keen to hear from interested candidates from across the motu. This opportunity would suit a student undertaking a Masters of Public Health (or similar degree) who is ready to begin work on their 120-point thesis in Semester 2, 2025.

**What the student will gain:** The student will develop skills in working with administrative and registry data, gain insight into how child cancer services are delivered in New Zealand, and be supported in engaging with stakeholders in the children's cancer space.

**Funding:** This scholarship is supported by the Child Cancer Foundation. Funding will cover domestic fees and a stipend of \$14,653 (tax-free).

