

TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND COMMUNITY

# ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2017-2018

*The Gut Cancer Foundation (GCF), formerly known as Gastro-Intestinal Cancer Institute of New Zealand (GICI), is dedicated to improving the outcomes for patients with gastro-intestinal cancer. GCF aims to increase awareness of Gastro-intestinal (GI) cancers and raise funds to support clinical research in New Zealand, focusing particularly on clinical trials.*

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## OUR TEAM

Gut Cancer Foundation was founded in 2008 by Professor of Oncology Michael Findlay, bowel cancer survivor Grant Baker, and pancreatic cancer survivor Paul Hargreaves. They were inspired by Australia's GI Cancer Institute (AGITG), to establish an entity to fill the serious funding gap for awareness of GI cancers and clinical research into gastro-intestinal cancers.

### Patron

- Dame Rosie Horton, Auckland

### Ambassadors

- Anne Hargreaves, Auckland
- Lisa Toi, Leigh

### GCF Board of Directors

- Grant Baker, Chairperson, Bowel Cancer Survivor, Auckland
- Professor Michael Findlay, Gastro-intestinal Oncologist, Auckland
- Anna St George, Marketing and Communications, Auckland
- Professor Tim Price, Gastro-intestinal Oncologist, AGITG Chairman, Australia
- Christine Liddy, AGITG representative, Australia
- Gavin Gerrard, Oesophageal Cancer Survivor, Auckland
- Lisa Toi, Family Ambassador for GCF, Leigh

### GCF Scientific Advisory Committee

- Professor Bridget Robinson, Chair, Medical Oncologist, Christchurch
- Professor Michael Findlay, Gastro-intestinal Oncologist, Auckland
- Professor John McCall, Gastro-intestinal Surgeon, Dunedin
- Dr Iain Ward, Radiation Oncologist, Christchurch
- Kerin Thompson, Research Management, Motueka
- Associate Professor Clare Wall, Director of Dietetics and Nutrition, Auckland

### GCF's Executive Officer:

Ruth Davy, Bachelor of Nursing, Master of Public Health, Auckland.

### Grant Baker, GCF's Chairman



*"I developed bowel cancer 10 years ago and a large section of my bowel was removed. Had it not been for specialised medical research, I would not have accessed the chemotherapy which has helped save my life"*

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year we rebranded to ensure people can relate to our cause and to make us more visible in the wider community. The Gut Cancer Foundation was launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017.

Gut Cancer Foundation has continued to increase funding for clinical research in New Zealand, thanks to the Ted and Mollie Carr Endowment Trust and the Estate of Ernest Hyam Davis through Perpetual Guardian. They have given us funding for clinical research in the Auckland area to the value of \$50,000 a year for three years. Professor Peter Shepherd and his team at the University of Auckland have been awarded a one year grant to study a form of colorectal cancer which is difficult to treat.

The Hugh Green Foundation continue to fund us annually for a clinical fellowship which for a second year was awarded to Dr Janet Rhodes, of the University of Otago, who is working on the immunoscore test for colorectal cancer as part of her PhD. David Levene Foundation in turn supported a 'top up' of funding for Dr Rachel Purcell's gut biome research. Clinical trials continue with INTEGRATE 2 and TOPGEAR in progress.

'LoveYerGuts Awareness Campaign' occurred in April and May of 2017 raising over \$38,000 including \$21,378 from people doing 'gut crunches' and raising funds through sponsorship. Significant media coverage accompanied this with a TV One Breakfast interview, national print media and excellent outreach to over one million people through social media.

Further fundraising occurred through smaller 'Dine In' events with Dame Rosie Horton hosting one in her Remuera home. A 'Dine In for Pancreatic Cancer' in the month of November, which is the official pancreatic cancer awareness month, raised over \$20,000 thanks to Elaine Lunken and her family. Donations from the public have risen as our profile improves. Big Boys Toys raised just over \$17,000 in November last year and will return this year.

A new detailed resource and an upgraded website are worth looking at through [www.gutcancer.org.nz](http://www.gutcancer.org.nz). We continue to be grateful for the ongoing support from our Board, our Scientific Advisory Committee, volunteers and donors.

Grant Baker, Chairman and Cancer Survivor.

## STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

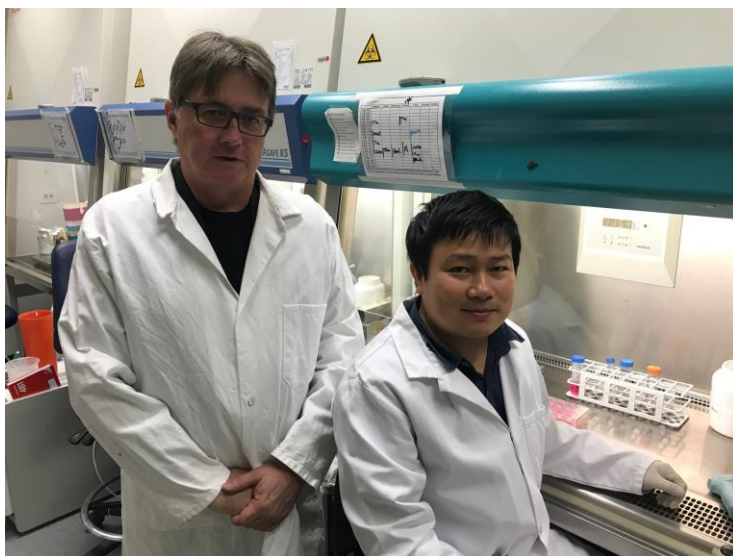
We are pleased to highlight the following progress:

- Increased awareness of GI cancers, the facts, risks and treatments
- Improved branding for the Gut Cancer Foundation
- Increased public recognition of our brand and purpose
- Improved access to detailed resources

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- Increased funding for clinical research
- Three research projects and one clinical fellowship in progress
- Two current clinical research trials
- Expansion of the 'LoveYerGuts' strategy
- Increased 'Dine In' events and other events
- Establishment of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness month in November
- Increased donations

## INCREASED FUNDING FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH



GCF awarded a grant of \$50,000 in March of 2018 to **Professor Peter Shepherd and Dr Khanh Tran, Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre and the Department of Molecular Medicine at the University of Auckland**. This was made possible by the Ted and Mollie Carr Endowment Trust and the Estate of Ernest Hyam Davis, through Perpetual Guardian. A drug combination used to treat melanoma will be trialled in the laboratory as a pre-clinical experiment to determine

if there is any colorectal tumour response using the drugs Vemurafenib and Axitinib.



GCF awarded a grant of \$50,000 to **Dr Roslyn Kemp of the University of Otago** which began in October 2016. She is currently in her second year. "The research goal of our laboratory is to identify the immune response within the tumours of people with colorectal cancer. This information could then be used to determine which patients may respond to therapies such as immune checkpoint blockade, or to identify new immunological targets for treatment. We are currently validating a new tool to quantify immune cells for the first time in New Zealand patients. This small pilot study has discovered a new type of immune cell that was associated with a good outcome for patients. We are currently optimising imaging techniques to enable us to discover whether this new immune cell is predictive of survival in a larger cohort and to determine how it functions".

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GCF awarded a further \$25,000 for clinical research to **Dr Rachel Purcell of the University of Otago**, to a total value of \$75,000, thanks to the generosity of the Hugh Green Foundation and David Levene Foundation. “We are very encouraged by the results of our recently published pilot study, which shows distinct microbiome patterns associated with different molecular subtypes of colorectal cancer (CRC). With the generous support of the Gut Cancer Foundation, we have expanded this study into a large-scale CRC cohort. RNA-sequencing data from tumour samples has allowed us to stratify CRC into molecular subtypes, and we are currently investigating the clinical implications of this

subtyping system. In addition, we are carrying out in-depth microbiome analysis of CRC tumour samples in order to better understand the mechanisms by which the gut microbiome plays a role in colorectal cancer”



**The Hugh Green Foundation 2017 Clinical Fellowship, valued at \$50,000, has been awarded for a second year to Dr Janet Rhodes**, a surgical registrar trainee, to take time out of her clinical work to complete her PhD. Her supervisors are Professor John McCall and Dr Roslyn Kemp who are well known to GCF. “Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second highest cause of cancer death in New Zealand. Some patients require surgery alone, while others need chemotherapy to complete treatment. It is not always clear which patients will require chemotherapy to optimise their chance of survival. The immunoscore is a recently developed tool that measures

the patient’s immune response to cancer and helps to determine which patients may need additional therapies. My PhD will validate the use of the immunoscore in New Zealand CRC. I will identify other aspects of the immunoscore to improve its ability to predict outcomes for the patient”.

## SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) offers advice to the GCF Board about clinical research into gastrointestinal cancers, and also provides guidance on all clinical matters. Our focus is on the entire gastro-intestinal tract. The SAC assesses applications from New Zealand researchers for funding for clinical trials, and also searches for studies relevant to New Zealand which GCF could support, in an effort to make more trials available. This increases opportunities for patients with GI cancers to participate in trials of new therapies, and gain from them.

The SAC members offer a breadth of experience and expertise. It includes Professor Michael Findlay (Director Cancer Trials New Zealand), Professor Clare Wall (dietetics and nutrition), Kerin Thompson (clinical trials management), Dr Iain Ward (radiation



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oncologist), Professor John McCall (surgeon) and Professor Bridget Robinson (medical oncologist).

Clinical research and our annual fellowship is described above. Clinical trials currently funded and closed for funding are described below.

## **INTEGRATE 2**

INTEGRATE 2 is an international randomised phase III double-blind placebo-controlled study of Regorafenib in advanced Gastro-Oesophageal Cancer (AGOC). INTEGRATE demonstrated efficacy with the use of Regorafenib in advanced Gastro-Oesophageal Cancer, and could potentially become a new standard of care after other therapeutic agents have stopped working. INTEGRATE II is being undertaken to confirm the findings of the Phase I trial in a larger population. If the study is positive it will provide evidence for Regorafenib as a new standard of care after other treatments no longer benefit patients with gastric cancer. GCF has agreed to fund three patients over two years funded at a cost of \$8,852 for all three. This supports recruitment for radiology and laboratory requirements only.

## **TOPGEAR**

We have funded two of four patients onto TOPGEAR, a randomised study in gastric cancer looking at chemotherapy and radiation versus chemotherapy only prior to surgery. Recruitment continues.

## **Circulating Tumour DNA in Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma**

During 2017 to 2018, GCF supported three participants in a now completed trial in locally advanced pancreatic cancer where response to treatment is measured using circulating tumour derived DNA (ctDNA). This international trial with 119 participants, concluded that ctDNA has promise for a screening test for pancreatic cancer, and for predicting relapse in people with pancreatic cancer.

## **A La CART**

The GCF supported surgical A La CART (Australasian Laparoscopic Cancer of the Rectum) trial comparing laparoscopic surgery for rectal cancer with standard anterior resection, found that rates of complete tumour removal, as assessed by pathological examination of the removed specimen, were excellent overall, but lower after laparoscopic than open surgery. The study therefore was not able to prove that laparoscopic surgery was as good as open surgery at achieving complete tumour removal.

## **SCOT**

Outcomes for SCOT (Short Course Oncology Therapy) Trial results have been released and show side effects, such as nerve damage, were less for those patients receiving 12 weeks of chemotherapy compared to those receiving 24 weeks. Despite the fact the

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international study was underpowered, the data suggested that a shorter duration leads to similar survival outcomes with better quality of life and thus might represent a new standard of care.

SAC supported the appointment of the above grants for clinical research and the fellowship in 2017 to 2018, through a rigorous application process.



**Bridget Robinson**

**Scientific Advisory Committee Chair**

## LOVEYERGUTS CAMPAIGN



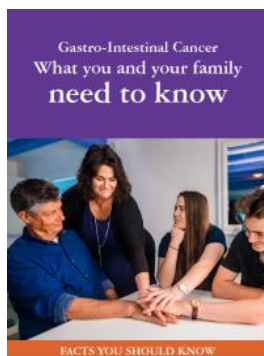
**Let's Kick Cancer  
in the Guts**

The Awareness Campaign for 2017 became 'LoveYerGuts' which was integrated into a 'peer to peer' platform. GCF engaged The Department, a strategy and marketing company, to ensure the best strategic and marketing way forward with 'LoveYerGuts'. The Department assisted GCF with branding of the campaign, development of resources including the 'LoveYerGuts' website, social media and public relations. GCF managed the engagement of the telemarketing company. There was significant media and social media coverage. The media coverage reached an estimated 765,000 recipients and the social media 257,414 people. The total income for LoveYerGuts was \$38,259 in April and May of 2017, of which \$21,738 came through the LoveYerGuts' fundraising platform.

In 2017 we began preparing for the 2018 campaign by engaging Alexander PR who will support us with media engagement. Significant funds were invested to enable higher profile of our new brand.

## RESOURCES

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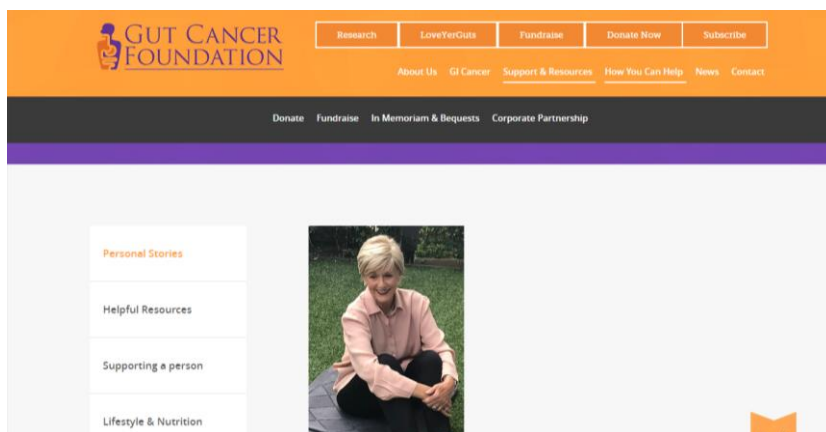


## New Detailed Booklet

We are often asked about support services for gut cancers. Our new 32 page detailed booklet is available. It includes facts about all the gut cancers, where to access more information and helpful tips for people living with a gut cancer. Email: [info@gutcancer.org.nz](mailto:info@gutcancer.org.nz) for hard copies. Thanks to the Australasian GI Trials Group (AGITG) for allowing us to use their template; Anne Hargreaves for content support; Lisa Toi and family for being our model family; Claire

Murray at The Department for making it all come together so well; and Elaine Lunken for reviewing the Final document. Special thanks to Pub Charity Ltd for the funding and making it happen.

## New Videos and upgraded Website



Elaine Lunken, left, told her story of living with pancreatic cancer and Anne Hargreaves shared her story supporting her husband Paul Hargreaves who survived pancreatic cancer.

Thanks to the Dragon Community Trust for part-funding of the videos.

## FUNDRAISING

### DINE IN FOR GUT CANCER

Three 'Dine In's' occurred this year. Lisa Toi, one of our ambassadors, hosted another stunning event at Koru Hideaway in the Matakana region raising \$4,000 and another \$2,000 donation. Patron Dame Rosie Horton hosted a successful cocktail evening in her home raising \$10,490.



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A **Dine In for Pancreatic Cancer** was run by Elaine Lunken, who is living well with pancreatic cancer, and her family. The evening was hosted and supported by Kelliher Charitable Trust. John Campbell entertained while we once again enjoyed the art work on show. The evening, which included an auction, raised \$22,916. International Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month is in November each year. 'Colour it Purple' for pancreatic cancer. #WPCD is World Pancreatic Cancer Day each 15<sup>th</sup> day of November.

Elaine Lunken and John Campbell



Dame Rosie Horton, centre, and friends

**Dine In**  
— FOR —  
**Pancreatic**  
**Cancer**



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Kerry Nicholson hosted a 'Dine In for Pancreatic Cancer' in memory of her 43 year old sister who died earlier this year from pancreatic cancer, leaving behind two teenage daughters. #WPCD (World Pancreatic Cancer Day) #PurpleforPancreaticCancer

Hastings Lions Club hosted a 'Dine In for Gut Cancer' raising \$1,000.

The five 'Dine In' events in total raised \$38,855. Thanks to you all!!

[www.everydayhero.co.nz/event/DineIn4GutCancers](http://www.everydayhero.co.nz/event/DineIn4GutCancers)

***Thanks everyone for getting 'Gutsy for Gut Cancer'!!***

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## OTHER EVENTS



It is always an honour to be chosen as a recipient of funds raised by events. Once again Iris Franks staged her annual Santa House with nearly 300 Santas and thousands of lights, raising \$2,616. Iris was honoured at Dame Rosie Horton's event for raising \$18,519 over nine years. Thanks to Iris and her extended family for their support.

Ruth Davy, Iris Franks and Professor Michael Findlay

## BIG BOYS TOYS

Once again we were privileged to be the charity of choice for Big Boys Toys. Volunteer Auckland provided many of the bucket collectors and with the support of Big Boys Toys management we raised just over \$17,000. Thanks must go to Grant Baker, our chairman, who allowed Big Boys Toys to display his LaFerrari Aperta.



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## GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Obtaining grants continues to be a challenge in this overcrowded charity sector. We have been fortunate to have received the following:

- JM Thomson \$3,000 for the Awareness Campaign in 2017
- Pub Charity \$7,761 for development of support and awareness resources
- Dragon Community Trust \$2,000 for videos

Donations / Grants for Research

- The Hugh Green Foundation \$50,000 for the Clinical Research Fellowship
- David Levene Foundation \$10,000 for research

**Donations not tagged \$54,546**

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Fundraising income through events and donations remains very positive. Overall we are in a financially stable situation with funds invested. Donations are increasing due to a significant, anonymous donor who is gifting the annual proceeds of a share portfolio to GCF for administration. This fund has the potential to give us up to \$100,000 a year.

## OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

Funding of clinical research trials and clinical research has once again increased significantly this year thanks to the grants and donations. We are looking at new opportunities for raising funds through grants and believe our new brand will support this. Overheads remain low thanks to support services listed below.



***THANK YOU  
FOR ALL YOUR  
SUPPORT!***

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## 2017 TO 2018 KEY SPONSORS



### Special thanks for ongoing support from:

Alexander PR; Big Boys Toys; Kelliher Charitable Trust; Business Bakery; PwC New Zealand; Rothbury Insurance; Chapman Tripp; Continental Cars; The Department; ECOYA; Emergent Recruiters; BNZ Hamilton branch; EC Credit Control.

### LOOKING AHEAD

The new brand is proving to be very effective. As I drive around in my car, I am aware of the attention it receives and in turn I have been approached for information!



### Thanks Turners Cars

I am very excited about the future of 'LoveYerGuts' as a fundraising brand. The EveryDay Hero fundraising platforms for 'LoveYerGuts Gut Crunch' campaign, 'Get Gutsy for Gut Cancers' and 'Dine In for Gut Cancers' are now reaping rewards. We have more communities and gutsy ambassadors coming on board around New Zealand.

Another highlight was joining CANGO, a not-for-profit network of charities working to improve outcomes for all people with cancer, be it children, teens or adults. Our new detailed booklet, along with the brochure, is being distributed throughout New Zealand to GI cancer health organisations.

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Thanks to our anonymous donor, we are now in the position to engage more support staff. We are currently engaging a contractor to support our 'LoveYerGuts' 2019 campaign. We are also employing casual contractors to support individual fundraising events. Volunteer Auckland has helped us find the best volunteers during the year.



**Ruth Davy**

**Executive Officer  
November 8, 2018**



**Let's Kick Cancer  
in the Guts**

## IN MEMORY OF LAURA ROBSON



**'LoveYerGuts' Ambassador 2017, of Wellington**

Passed away in January this year at the age of 28 years from bowel cancer.

Our sincerest condolences to Jeremy Robson and the Brennand family.



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## GUT CANCER FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

### GUT CANCER FOUNDATION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	Actual This Year \$	Actual Last Year \$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Fundraising and event income	86,453	156,645
Grant income and donations	127,307	163,049
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	338	1,481
Other revenue		31
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>214,098</b>	<b>321,206</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Expenses related to multiple public fundraising events	39,814	94,640
Volunteer and employee related costs	78,003	83,037
Awareness	41,243	12,137
Grants and donations made for research	85,797	50,080
Other expenses	8,493	11,075
Depreciation and amortisation	614	1,229
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>254,064</b>	<b>252,198</b>
<b>Deficit for the Year</b>	<b>(39,966)</b>	<b>69,008</b>

GRANTS: JM THOMSON \$3,000 FOR AWARENESS, PUB CHARITY \$7,761 FOR RESOURCES, DRAGON COMMUNITY TRUST \$2,000 FOR VIDEOS, THE HUGH GREEN FOUNDATION \$50,000 FOR CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP, DAVID LEVENE FOUNDATION \$10,000 FOR RESEARCH

DONATIONS NOT TAGGED \$54,546

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## GUT CANCER FOUNDATION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2018

	Actual This Year \$	Actual Last Year \$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Bank accounts and cash	285,816	303,981
Debtors and prepayments	9,683	8,733
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>295,499</b>	<b>312,714</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	40	79
Intangible assets	575	1,150
Investments	50,000	50,000
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>50,615</b>	<b>51,229</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>346,114</b>	<b>363,943</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors and accrued expenses	40,886	18,385
Employee costs payable	7,671	8,035
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>48,557</b>	<b>26,420</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>48,557</b>	<b>26,420</b>
<b>Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)</b>	<b>297,557</b>	<b>337,523</b>
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>		
Capital contributed by owners or members		
Accumulated surpluses	230,479	224,962
Reserves	67,078	112,561
<b>Total Accumulated Funds</b>	<b>297,557</b>	<b>337,523</b>

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

RUTH DAVY  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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rdavy@gutcancer.org.nz

## ORGANISATION INFORMATION

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Tel 0800 112 775

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



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