

# AYA Cancer Network

## A farewell to Heidi Watson – National Clinical Lead

Tēnā koutou

After nearly a decade of tireless dedication, Heidi Watson has recently resigned as the Clinical Lead of the Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Cancer Network Aotearoa.

Heidi has led the Network since its inception and has been the driving force in connecting and energising the sector to improve cancer care for young people in Aotearoa. Her leadership has been pivotal in achieving significant milestones, including the development of the AYA Standards of Care and the implementation of the AYA Cancer Action Plan.

Heidi's passion for engaging directly with young people has ensured their voices are heard at every level of the Network's operations – from resource development to governance. She has also grown the knowledge and expertise of the workforce, including through her leadership of the University of Auckland postgraduate course in AYA cancer care.

Heidi's departure marks the end of an era for the Network and the AYA Cancer Network Governance Group and the Cancer Control Agency are currently establishing the next steps. In the interim, Kirsten Ballantine, the National Programme Manager, will be available to address any inquiries related to the Network.

Heidi has been a strong advocate for young people with cancer in Aotearoa and we know this will continue as she leads the implementation of the North Island Sarcoma Service. We wish her every success in her new role and extend our gratitude for her extraordinary contributions.

Poipoia te kākano kia puawai  
Nurture the seed and it will blossom

Dr Richard Sullivan  
Governance Group Chair  
AYA Cancer Network Aotearoa

Rami Rahal  
Chief Executive  
The Cancer Control Agency – Te Aho o Te Kahu

