



Monday 1st August 2022

World Lung Cancer Day: Lung cancer kills five New Zealanders every day

Lung Foundation New Zealand observes World Lung Cancer Day to honour and unite all kiwis that have been affected by lung cancer which is New Zealand's Biggest Cancer Killer.

The purpose of World Lung Cancer Day is to raise awareness about lung cancer and its global impact, to inform and educate an understanding of lung cancer risks and the importance of early treatment.

Every year more people die of lung cancer than breast cancer, prostate cancer and melanoma cancer combined. More than 1800 Kiwis die from lung cancer every year. This is five times the national road toll.

This World Lung Cancer Day, Lung Foundation New Zealand is emphasising lung cancer is a national health emergency - one that requires urgent corrective action from the Government.

"Early detection of lung cancer and providing patients with access to the right treatment at the right time needs to be a government priority" says Philip Hope, Chief Executive of Lung Foundation New Zealand.

The symptoms of lung cancer include, but are not limited to, shortness of breath, chest pains, an unexplained persistent cough and noisy breathing. We urge everyone to understand their lung cancer risk and to investigate symptoms without delay.

Lung Cancer Risk Factors

<https://lungfoundation.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Risk-1.pdf>

Lung Cancer - Know The Symptoms

<https://lungfoundation.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/LFNZ-BREATHE-Symptoms-Poster.pdf>

Lung Cancer Patient and Carer Resources

<http://lungfoundation.org.nz/resources/>

Lung Cancer FACTS

Every year more people die of lung cancer than breast cancer, prostate cancer and melanoma cancer combined.

5 Kiwis die every day from lung cancer AND 6 Kiwis are diagnosed with lung cancer every day

45% of patients diagnosed with lung cancer in NZ are diagnosed at A&E

One Māori dies of lung cancer every day in New Zealand.

Lung cancer registrations and mortality rates are 4 times higher in Māori women and 3 times higher in Māori men.

Despite, lung cancer being NZ's biggest cancer killer we DO NOT yet have a national screening programme in place

New Zealand has singled out inequities for Māori as a priority, however the lack of commitment to reduce inequalities is indefensible and unacceptable.

There is a 6% gap in three-year survival rate between NZ and Australia. This gap is growing.

For further information

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