

Cancer Social Workers

Social Work Department
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We can support you and your family/whānau as you come to terms with your diagnosis and the impact it may have in your day-to-day life, now and in the future.

How we can help

Emotional Impact

This can be a very emotional and stressful time that can affect many areas of life.

Coming to terms with the suddenness and uncertainty of a cancer diagnosis can take time and be overwhelming.

Oncology social workers can offer support and the opportunity to talk through the impact of your diagnosis and the many changes it may bring to you and your loved ones.

Advocacy

This may be your first experience of being in hospital and social workers can walk alongside you as you navigate your way through this unfamiliar system.

Initially it will take some time to adapt to the use of medical terminology, but with the right support, after a few weeks you may find you are starting to not only understand, but also use the medical language yourself.

Work / Finances

You may have concerns about how treatment will affect your finances and employment. We can work through strategies with you and act as an advocate if required.

Travelling for Treatment

For people arriving from out of town, there are a number of challenges associated with travelling for treatment. Social workers can support you through this difficult transition and help you to foster connections with people and services in Palmerston North.

It is also important to maintain links with your own community cancer services. We can provide you with contact details and information.

Home-based Supports

We can help you access support in your home depending on your assessed needs.

Relationships

Depending on how treatment makes you feel, you may find that the roles you play in life and the relationships you have change with time. Sometimes change can be difficult so we are available to support you and your loved ones with this.

If you are concerned about a family member or notice behaviour in young children and adolescents that seem out of character, let the social worker know. If we are unable to assist with their needs, we can put you in touch or make a referral on your behalf with someone who can.