



MY LIFE MATTERS

**You are one
diagnosis
away from
moving to
Australia.**

**There is an
unfunded
medicine crisis
in New Zealand.**

**Our politicians
need to act now
to save lives.**

MYLIFEMATTERS.ORG.NZ

Media Kit

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CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

My Life Matters – a collective of patient advocate organisations representing more than 1 million patients with **cancers, rare disorders, diabetes, and other life limiting conditions** raising awareness to tackle the issue of investment, and timely access to new and breakthrough medicines for the people of New Zealand.

Our mission is to raise awareness, promote policy changes, and engage stakeholders to ensure equitable access to essential medicines for all Kiwis.



Across New Zealand, countless lives are tethered to hope, and their survival hinges on accessing critical medications that are unfunded.

In pursuit of medicines equity, we are standing together to highlight the injustice for patients who are having to access essential medications unfunded here in their own country.

At the heart of this campaign lies a shared vision: a New Zealand where every patient has the opportunity to lead a healthy life, unhindered by poor investment, and access to new and breakthrough medicines that are available in other countries.

Through advocacy, awareness, and courage, we aim to shape a brighter tomorrow for patients in Aotearoa.

CAMPAIGN GOALS

- Garner support from political parties, and the public to drive policy reform.
- Raise public awareness about the connection between investment and access to medicines, and healthcare.
- Facilitate meaningful discussions about the importance of medicines access, the impact on New Zealand's society and the overburdened health system.

CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

- Campaign launch and press conference: 28 August 2023
- Awareness activities: From 28 August to 13 October 2023
- National roadshow: please check www.mylifematters.org.nz for more details.
- Election: Saturday 14 October, 2023

CAMPAIGN SPOKESPERSON

Malcolm Mulholland – Chair, Patient Voice Aotearoa

If you would like to speak to a patient please get in contact with Malcolm.

KEY MESSAGES



Timely access to new and breakthrough medicines:

New Zealand's Government must expedite pathways for evaluating and approving these treatments which can significantly improve patient outcomes, survival rates, and help to reduce the pressure on New Zealand's overburdened health system.



Pharmac's role and funding:

Pharmac plays a pivotal role in the management of medicines access, with decisions primarily driven by costs and little consideration given to societal factors. There also needs to be an urgent and clear plan to implement the findings of the Pharmac Review to address the significant shortcomings in Pharmac's performance.



Financial burden on patients:

Kiwis are struggling to privately fund the medications they need, forced to leave New Zealand, or go without the treatment they desperately need. This burden is particularly hard on vulnerable communities, leading to adverse health outcomes, and reduced quality of life.

From the voice of patients

“Our most vulnerable are suffering and dying prematurely. Stop being so cost-focused. Value them and their welfare. If the rest of the OECD can do it, so can we.”

#ComeOnNZParliament

Theresa Zame, stage 4 lung cancer patient who is self-funding the medicine she needs for quality of life.

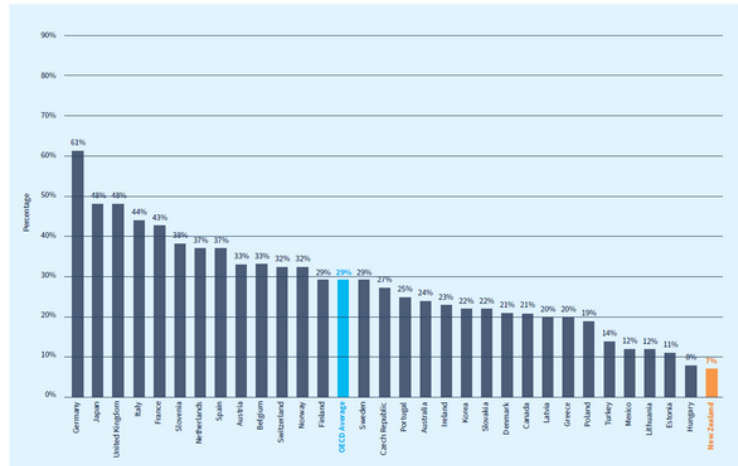


How is New Zealand performing with medicines?

We are dead last!

New Zealanders' ability to access new and breakthrough medicines lags well behind other comparable OECD countries, with New Zealand ranking 32nd in a list of 32 OECD countries for public funding of medicines. By comparison, Australia is ranked 18th and the United Kingdom ranked third.

Percentage of New Medicines Reimbursed by Public Insurance Plans by OECD Country (of all 460 new medicines launched from 2012 to end of 2021)

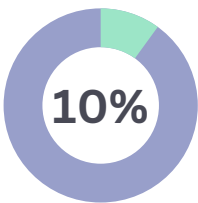


Only 8% of modern medicines funded

New Zealand has funded only 8 percent of the modern medicines launched between 2011 and 2020.

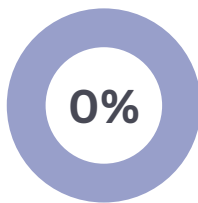
How does this 8% deliver for New Zealand's biggest health issues?

Percentage of New Zealand publicly funded medicines between 2011 and 2020.*



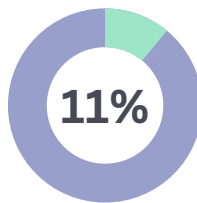
for cancer

Only 10% of modern cancer medicines launched in the OECD.



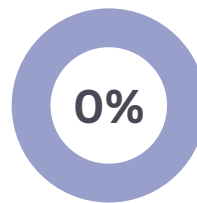
for mental health

None of the modern medicines launched in the OECD were funded for mental health.



for rare disorders

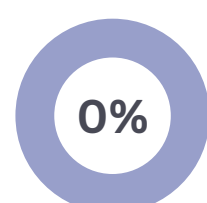
Only 11% of modern rare disease medicines launched in the OECD.



for diabetes

None of the modern medicines launched in the OECD were funded for diabetes.

*note in 2021 - 3 modern medicines were funded for diabetes but only for a limited group of patients.



for arthritis

None of the modern medicines launched in the OECD were funded for arthritis.

Against Australia?

105 Australia funds 105 modern medicines that New Zealand does not.



41

for cancer



4

for mental health



8

for rare disorders



10

for diabetes



4

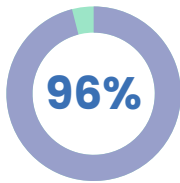
for arthritis



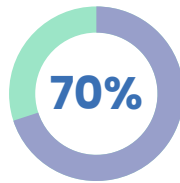
AN UNFUNDED MEDICINES CRISIS

New Zealand is twice as slow to publicly fund new medicines, being on average twice as slow and ranks last for market access* with comparable countries.

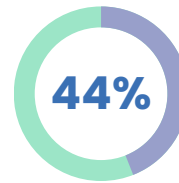
The following measure relates to the number of new medicines registered, time it takes to access, and how many are publicly funded.



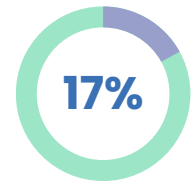
United Kingdom



Finland



Australia



New Zealand

THERE IS POTENTIAL FOR NO NEW MEDICINES TO BE FUNDED IN 2024

- To maintain access to the same list of funded medicines that includes new medicines funded in 2022/23, an additional **\$181 million dollars** is needed in the health budget from 2024 onwards.
- This does not include funding for any new medicines, which could mean no new medicines will be funded until there is a commitment from Government to do so.
- The Treasury has already warned the Government twice about the funding which is missing from the health budget from 2024 onwards.

The risk to Kiwis is no new medicines will be funded from 2024 without an investment and commitment from Government.

STATISTICS

\$417 Million

is the estimated investment required to clear the wait list of 78 medicines that Pharmac wants to buy but doesn't have enough money for.

1.5 Million

is the number of patients that would benefit Pharmac's OFI list was funded.

32nd out of 32

is where New Zealand ranks against other comparable countries for publicly funding medicines.

109

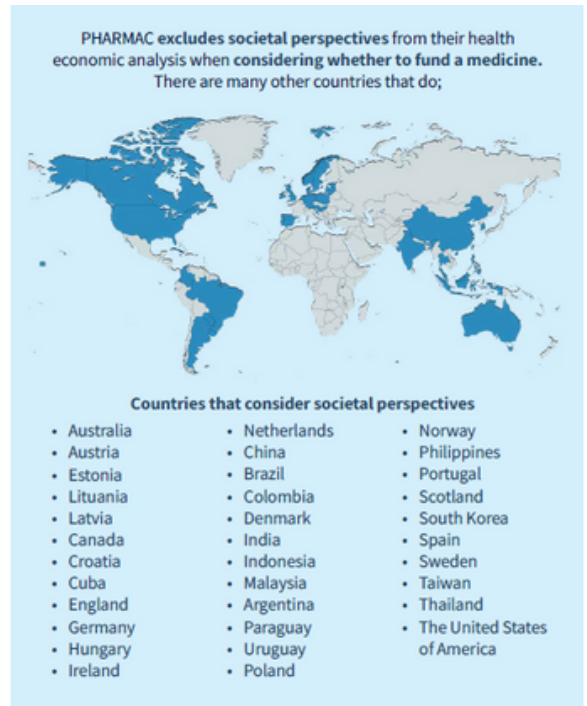
is the number of applications languishing on Pharmac's Option for Investment List as at April 2023.

7.7 YEARS

is the average waiting time and counting for applications across all Pharmac lists.

PHARMAC NEEDS REFORM

- The existing funding model used by Pharmac to assess new medicines places a priority on immediate cost savings without taking into consideration the potential for downstream costs to patients, the healthcare system, and New Zealand economy.
- Pharmac does not include the societal perspective in their economic analysis when considering whether to fund a medicine, 34 other countries do.



The Pharmac Review

- The Final Report of the independent Pharmac Review was released by the Minister of Health in June 2022.
- There were 33 recommendations, the bulk of which were accepted by the Government.
- Serious concerns were raised over Pharmac's operations and performance, particularly around process and transparency.
- Pharmac's final response is vague and lacks detail about what will be implemented and when.
- An urgent and clear plan is needed on how and when the recommendations will be implemented.

Why do medicines matter?



- By not keeping up with population growth and growing inflation New Zealanders are missing out on new and breakthrough medicines that could have life-changing benefits.
- Adequate investment is needed to maintain a robust health system and provide access to medicines that are part of standard international treatment regimes.
- Patients are being disadvantaged, having to privately fund, source, move countries, or go without treatment they desperately need. The burden is particularly hard on vulnerable communities, leading to adverse health outcomes, and reduced quality of life.
- New Zealand's health system is already over-burdened, new and breakthrough medicines would make a difference if they were available to our healthcare professionals treating patients.



SOCIAL MEDIA KIT

Did you know that when it comes to accessing new and breakthrough medicines, New Zealand ranks 32nd out of 32 OECD countries for public funding of medicines? 🇳🇿 This needs to change! Kiwis deserve timely access to life-changing treatments. Let's come together as a community to advocate for better healthcare and improved funding for medicines. 💪

It's time to make a difference! Share this post to spread awareness and let's work towards a healthier and brighter future for everyone.



CAMPAIGN HASHTAGS

#MyLifeMatters
#AccesstoMedicines
#MedicinesEquity
#HealthcareEquity
#BetterHealthNZ



www.mylifematters.org.nz



CONTACT INFORMATION

For media enquiries, interviews, or more information, please contact:

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References:

[Medicines New Zealand landscape report 2022/2023.](#)

[Pharmac's medicines waiting lists, impact on patients in Aotearoa, April 2023](#)

<https://pharmac.govt.nz/medicine-funding-and-supply/the-funding-process/priority-lists/>

<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-05/befu23.pdf> page 90

<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2022-05/befu22.pdf> page 80