

MEDIA RELEASE

BRAIN TUMOUR SUPPORT NZ

Hamilton, New Zealand

[Wednesday 13 October 2021, 1.00pm NZDT]

Brain Tumour Support NZ mourns the passing of Jemima Gazley

Brain Tumour Support NZ is saddened to learn of the death of Wellington teenager Jemima Gazley, aged 15, from brain cancer.

In the days before her passing Jemima made headlines nationwide through her selfless campaign to raise much needed funds for brain cancer research. In just over a week her Givealittle page has raised over \$500,000, and growing.

“Jemima has touched the hearts of thousands of ordinary Kiwis, many of whom were probably unaware that brain cancer is the biggest cancer killer of New Zealand children,” said Chris Tse, chair of Brain Tumour Support NZ.

“The funds she has raised will go a long way to finding a cure for her type of brain cancer, but just as importantly her story has shone a light on a disease that so often lives in the shadows,” said Chris.

“Brain tumours attack the very essence of who we are - our thoughts, our emotions, our personality. For this reason many patients and their families prefer to keep a low profile. It takes a very brave and special person to raise their head above the parapet and go public with their illness. Jemima is one of those special people,” he said.

“Our thoughts are with Jemima’s family at this very sad time. We hope that they appreciate the wonderful legacy their daughter has created. The New Zealand brain tumour community owes Jemima a huge debt of gratitude,” said Chris.

Ends

Charity Services number: CC56933

ABOUT BRAIN TUMOURS

- Brain cancer is the biggest cancer killer of children in New Zealand, being responsible for 38% of all childhood cancer deaths (the next largest is leukaemia with 25%)¹
- Every year around 342 New Zealanders are diagnosed with primary brain cancer, representing 1.3% of all cancers diagnosed in New Zealand.
- Around 250 New Zealanders die each year from brain cancer, making it the 10th most fatal cancer.
- Brain tumours can affect anyone, of any ethnicity, and at any age. There is no effective screening or prevention.
- Brain tumours reduce life expectancy by on average 20 years – the highest of any cancer.²

ABOUT BRAIN TUMOUR SUPPORT NZ

Brain Tumour Support NZ is a registered charity formed in 2019 to provide much needed support, information and advocacy to brain tumour patients in New Zealand. Our Vision is that everyone living with a brain tumour has the support, information and access to best treatments, so they feel less afraid, less alone and more empowered.

Website: www.braintumoursupport.org.nz

Media Contact at Brain Tumour Support NZ:

Chris Tse – Chair (027-2712004, chris@braintumoursupport.org.nz)

¹ Ballantine, K & the NZCCR Working Group (2017). *Child cancer survival in New Zealand 2005-2014: A report from the New Zealand Children's Cancer Registry*. Auckland: National Child Cancer Network <https://childcancernetwork.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Childhood-Cancer-Survival-in-New-Zealand-2005-2014.pdf>

² Burnet et al. *Years of life lost (YLL) from cancer is an important measure of population burden--and should be considered when allocating research funds*. Br J Cancer. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15655548/>

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