



Further information available on  
[www.kidshealth.org.nz](http://www.kidshealth.org.nz) or  
[www.healthpoint.co.nz](http://www.healthpoint.co.nz)

Contact details:

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# Palliative Care Service





## Facts about palliative care for children

- ▶ Palliative care means relieving or soothing. We support many children with chronic illness, or serious illness from which the child recovers, in addition to caring for children who are dying.
- ▶ Palliative care can be provided along with curative care, for children/young people with all kinds of illnesses.
- ▶ Palliative care provides hope, and aims for the best quality of life for the child and family/whanau during stressful times.



## Who we are

- ▶ A team of doctors, nurses and a social worker – all with extra training and an interest in working with children who have a serious illness and their families. We also have a child psychotherapist and a child psychiatrist in our team.



## What we do

- ▶ We see children of all ages, from premature babies to older adolescents.
- ▶ We meet families before their baby is born, when the baby has been diagnosed with a serious illness.
- ▶ We work with many other health professionals to help care for your whole family/whanau.

## We respect that

- ▶ Parents know their children best
- ▶ Children and Young People need to have the opportunity to voice their feelings about having a serious illness, in a way that is appropriate to the child/young person and their family/whanau.
- ▶ It is hard to make decisions in times of uncertainty in a child/young person's illness
- ▶ The child or young person is the focus, but the needs of the whole family/whanau, including siblings, are important.



## What can we help with?

- ▶ Comfort of your child – relief of pain and other distressing symptoms
- ▶ Help with communication between your different medical teams and health professionals
- ▶ Caring for you and your child in the setting of your choice – home or hospital
- ▶ Te Wa Aroha – Advance Care Planning
- ▶ Discussion with you, your child, and your child's care team about treatment decisions
- ▶ Connecting you with other health professionals and community agencies that can help
- ▶ Listening to your concerns and worries
- ▶ Making home visits as needed and working with community teams to ensure your child's needs are met.

