Exploring the Early Experiences of the Assisted Dying Service in Aotearoa

UPDATE

October 2026

Our research in numbers

10,000 word submission to the Review of the End of Life Choice Act
167 attendees came to the conference we hosted
96 people represented in the data
30 conference presentations, keynotes, workshops & training sessions
28 media articles covered our research
13 Ministry of Health End of Life Choice Act Review recommendations aligned with our submission
13 team members
11 articles published (with more underway)
6 esteemed advisors
5 resources published
4 post-graduate projects
3 community collaborations
3 awards including VADANZ Innovation Award for Emerging Research
3 conference sponsors
3 panels, 2 international keynotes and 2 Māori keynotes
2 research grant applications about grief support
2 appointments to Review Committee and senior academic lecturer
1 editorial in the *BMJ*
1 podcast series

Resources

A fourth guide is now freely available on our website (scroll down to Resources). It aims to support whānau, hapū, and iwi to have open, respectful discussions about assisted dying. The kaupapa is to support increasing understanding, aroha, and manaakitanga for whānau and communities seeking to understand assisted dying. **We welcome you to share these widely.** Thank you to the Assisted Dying Service, Willow, Go with Grace, Lean On Me, and the End of Life Choice Society for sharing our other guides. Don't forget to check out our podcast series: From Policy to Practice: Learning from Assisted Dying

Ngā mihi nui

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- the study participants who generously shared their stories and trusted us with them;
- our funders the Health Research Council;
- those who helped recruit participants;
- project advisors: Dr Jo Scott-Jones, Dr James Jap, Mr Pip Patston, Rangatira Maata Wharehoka, Whaea Jean Hikaka, Prof Antonia Lyons, Prof Lindy Willmott who guided us wisely;
- Ellan Baker for her research administration;
- podcast guests;
- Heather Davey;
- conference sponsors Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia New Zealand (VADANZ), Victoria University of Wellington, and the Borrin Foundation and conference volunteers;
- our postgraduate students;
- VUW research office team;
- community partners: Kenzie's Gift, Tōtara Hospice, Assisted Dying Service, Willow, Go with Grace, Cancer Society NZ, and the End of Life Choice Society;
- application letter of support writers: the Registrar for Assisted Dying, the Health and Disability Commissioner, Australian Centre for Health Law Research, Tōtara Hospice, Diversify NZ, VADANZ, Nurse Practitioners NZ, Royal Australian and NZ College of Psychiatrists, Te Ārai Kāhui Kaumātua, and Alzheimer's NZ.

Keep an eye out for our upcoming publications

Young, J., Dehkhoda, A., Diesfeld, K., Ahuriri-Driscoll, A., White, B.P., Snelling, J., Karaka-Clarke, T., Moeke-Maxwell, T., Cheung, G., Reid, K., Egan, R., & Robinson, J. (in press). Embedding Equity in Assisted Dying: Recalibrating Access and Safeguards for Substantive Equality. *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry.*

Karaka-Clarke, T. & Young, J. (in press). Relational Approaches to Culturally Safe Engagement in MAiD Research. *Canadian Journal of MAiD.*

Young J., Snelling, J., White, B.P., Diesfeld, K., Robinson, J., Ahuriri-Driscoll, A., Cheung, G., Reid, K., Moeke-Maxwell, T., Dehkhoda, A. (in press). Barriers to connecting with the assisted dying service in Aotearoa New Zealand. *Kōtuitui Journal.*