

Te Kaupeka Oranga | Faculty of Health

Date: 1st March 2025

HREC Ref: HREC 2024/130

Kia ora,

You are invited to participate in a research study which poses the question, what are the Assisted Dying experiences of Nurse Practitioners and Medical Practitioners in Aotearoa New Zealand? This study is being conducted by Heather Bustin, from the University of Canterbury | Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha (UC). Other research team members include Dr Kate Reid and Dr Cathy Andrew. The study is being carried out as a requirement for the Doctor of Health Sciences degree.

Who is invited to participate in this study?

To be eligible to participate in this study you must be currently employed as a New Zealand registered Nurse Practitioner or Medical Practitioner with experience in End-of-Life care.

What is involved in participating?

If you choose to take part in this research, you will participate in an interview. This interview will either take place face-to-face or online via Microsoft Teams. I will contact you to arrange a suitable time and location. The interview will involve me introducing myself, answering any questions you have, and confirming your consent to participate. Then, I will begin the interview and will ask you questions about assisted dying. I estimate the interview will take around an hour.

With your permission, the interview will be audio-recorded using a portable recorder or using the audio-recording feature of Microsoft Teams. If you have a video camera on during an online interview, the video will also be recorded unless you decide to turn your video camera off, which you have the right to do at any time during the interview. The audio recording will be used to transcribe (type out all the words said during) the interview, which I will analyse as part of the research. An external transcriber may transcribe the interview in the unlikely event of any technical difficulties with Microsoft Teams' audio-recording. If an external transcriber is required, they will sign a confidentiality agreement before listening to the recording. If you choose to review a copy of the interview transcript, I will provide this to you when it becomes available.

Are there any risks involved in this research?

Some questions or topics discussed may involve sensitive information which could potentially cause psychological, emotional, moral, religious, or cultural conflict or distress. If

this does occur, you will be provided with contact details of support services. It is possible that participants may be known to the researcher in a professional capacity. While the interviews will be conducted in a safe, confidential and professional manner, if this situation arises, participants will be offered an alternative researcher to conduct their interview. Participant confidentiality will be maintained throughout the study, however, there is a risk that anonymity may not always be afforded if there are a small identifiable number of end-of-life care practitioners within a particular geographical area. In this instance, demographic details will be omitted from results.

What if you change your mind during or after the study?

You are free to withdraw at any time up to the commencement of the interview, or during the interview should you become uncomfortable continuing. I will remove any information you have provided up to that point. You still have the right to withdraw from the study after you have been interviewed, however, once data analysis has commenced, approximately 6 weeks after transcripts have been reviewed by you, the removal of your influence on the results will not be possible.

What will happen to the information you provide?

The results of the project may be published, but you will be assured of the complete confidentiality of data gathered in this research. To ensure confidentiality, no material that could personally identify you will be used in any reports on this study. Consent forms will be scanned onto the researcher's password-protected UC owned laptop or placed in a secure and locked cabinet for a period of ten years. All electronic data will be stored within a password-protected Research Drive, access to which is managed by UC. Audio-recordings will be destroyed after transcribing has been completed and reviewed by participants. All other research data will be destroyed after a period of ten years.

Will the results of the study be published?

The results of this research will be published in a Doctoral thesis, which may include participant quotes. This thesis will be available to the public through the University of Canterbury library. Results may be published in peer-reviewed, academic journals. Results may also be presented during conferences or seminars to wider professional and academic communities. You will not be identifiable in any publication. A summary of results will be sent to all participants who request a copy.

Who can you contact if you have any questions or concerns?

Heather Bustin (Lead researcher)

Phone:

Email: heather.bustin@pg.canterbury.ac.nz

This study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Canterbury Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). If you have a complaint about this research, please contact the Chair of the HREC at human-ethics@canterbury.ac.nz

What happens next?

Please review the consent form. If you would like to participate, please sign and return the consent form to heather.bustin@pg.canterbury.ac.nz

Lead researcher contact details:
Heather Bustin
Email: heather.bustin@pg.canterbury.ac.nz
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What are the assisted dying service experiences of nurse practitioners and medical practitioners in Aotearoa New Zealand?

Consent Form for Participants

- ☐ I have been given a full explanation of this project and have had the opportunity to ask questions.
- ☐ I understand what is required of me if I agree to take part in the research and that interviews will be audio recorded.
- ☐ I understand that if I participate in an online interview it will be video recorded unless I turn my video camera off. I can decide to turn my video camera on or off at any time during the interview.
- ☐ I understand that participation is voluntary, and I may withdraw at any time without consequences. Withdrawal of participation will also include the withdrawal of any information I have provided.
- ☐ I understand the discussing assisted dying may be distressing or uncomfortable and I will be provided contact details for support services.
- ☐ I understand that any information or opinions I provide will be kept confidential to the researcher and that any published or reported results will not identify me.
- ☐ I understand that my quotes may be included in the thesis or publications, and these will be anonymised.
- ☐ I understand that all data collected for this study will be kept in locked and secure facilities at the University of Canterbury, shared only with the research team and will be destroyed after ten years.
- ☐ I understand that I can contact the researcher Heather Bustin or supervisor Dr Kate Reid (kate.reid@canterbury.ac.nz) for further information. If I have any complaints, I can contact the Chair of the University of Canterbury Human Research Ethics Committee, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch, (email: human-ethics@canterbury.ac.nz).
- ☐ I understand that I will receive a report on the findings of this study. I have provided my email and phone details below for this.

By signing below, I agree to participate in this research project.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____
Please return this completed consent form via email to the lead researcher, Heather Bustin.