Exploring the early experiences of the assisted dying service in Aotearoa

UPDATES

This project was developed through stakeholder engagement funded by a Health Research Council Activation Grant in 2022. With this new project, also funded by the HRC, we will explore the experiences of 100 people from key groups involved across the assisted dying process. We are also pleased to partner with Taranaki Iwi to follow their responses to assisted dying over the next three years. Findings from these qualitative data will advance our **aim of enhancing the assisted dying service to be safe, accessible, and equitably available to all eligible New Zealanders**. Project outcomes will contribute to monitoring assisted dying, regulatory review, and guidance for providers, patients, and family.

Research Team Hui August 2023

We had a very successful and productive two days in the garden city of Ōtautahi getting to know each other and fostering whakawhanaungatanga over lots of discussion, learning, presentations, and kai. During the hui, the research team developed research protocol, discussed the ethical considerations, data management and participant safety. Everyone is excited to begin recruitment soon and for the mahi that will follow.



Left to Right: Gary Cheung, Tess Moeke-Maxwell, Kate Diesfeld, Aida Dehkhoda, Kate Reid, Te Hurinui Karaka-Clarke, Jessica Young (Principal Investigator), Jeanne Snelling, Annabel Ahuriri-Driscoll, Richard Egan, Jackie Robinson, Ben White, Ellan Baker, Janine Winters (not pictured).

We are also fortunate to have the following advisors guide us. Māori: Whaea Maata Wharehoka on behalf of Taranaki Iwi, Clive Aspin, Leanne Manson. Clinical: James Jap, Jo Scott-Jones. Disability: Pip Patston. Academic: Lindy Willmott, Antonia Lyons.

Our objectives are to:
1) explore the experience of stakeholders involved in the AD;
2) co-produce resources with stakeholders;
3) submit an evidence-based report to the Act's review;
4) disseminate findings and resources widely; and
5) identify areas in AD that need further research.

Recruitment Opportunities

We have submitted our ethics application to the Health and Disability Ethics Committee. Once they have approved our application, we will begin recruiting participants. We would like to hear any advice on how to reach out to the following groups of interviewees.

- ⇒ Assisted dying service users (both eligible and ineligible)
- ⇒ Assisted dying service users living with an impairment, disability, or are Deaf
- ⇒ Family or close friends of service users
- ⇒ Assisted dying providers
- ⇒ Health professionals who have looked after an assisted dying patient
- ⇒ Health service leaders and policy-makers.

Please email ideas to jessica.young@vuw.ac.nz

Seeking Advice and Opinion

In November 2024, the *End of Life Choice Act 2019* is due for review.

The research team welcomes your views and experiences on any foreseen issues that the review could raise, and that the project may be able to work towards addressing.

Please email: jessica.young@vuw.ac.nz

To sign up for news about this research please email assisteddyingresearch@vuw.ac.nz

University of Otago Te Whare Wānanga o Otāgo New Zealand · QUT · Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka · AUT · University of Auckland Waipapa Taumata Rau New Zealand · UC University of Canterbury Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha Christchurch New Zealand