

Exploring the early experiences of the assisted dying service in Aotearoa

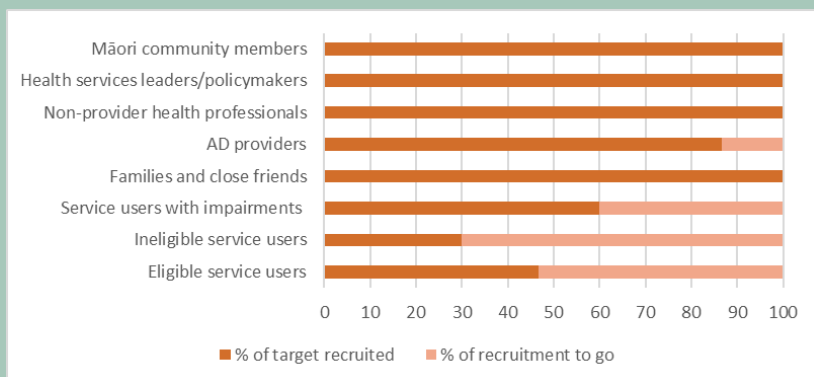
UPDATES

May 2024

Recruitment so far

Our research team is thrilled to share that we have 93 participants in our study to date, having the total number of participants required for most groups, which broadly cover much of the assisted dying service. We have received very positive feedback.

The project is especially grateful to everyone who has helped to snowball recruitment in particular Te Whatu Ora, the dedicated work of Jessica Young, Aida Dehkoda, Kate Diesfeld, Te Hurinui Karaka-Clarke, Tess Moeke-Maxwell, Annabel Ahuriri-Driscoll, and Manu Pelayo who have conducted the interviews and hui with great sensitivity, and to the team of transcribers working with care and precision.



Can you assist us with finding our remaining participants?

We have two more months to recruit and would greatly appreciate your help to circulate the service user flyers. We are happy to answer questions, address concerns or take feedback about the study at assisteddyingresearch@vuw.ac.nz.

Research Team Hui July 2024

With the team eagerly anticipating data analysis, the team has confirmed this year's annual face-to-face meeting for the 3rd and 4th of July this year at the University of Canterbury campus. The team looks forward to carefully navigating the following stage as we engage with the taonga that so many participants have provided. There will be many deep discussions ahead.

"We felt strangely better after your interview session. Something to do I think with the sense you give that there are people who care about these growing medical/social issues and who bring an informed, analytical and yet sympathetic perspective."

– Patient and Family participants.

Media Coverage

The research team has been raising the profile of the project:

- The Conversation on 23rd November 2023: [Is assisted dying available equally to all in NZ? Questions next year's review of the law must answer.](#)
- Radio New Zealand on 11th December 2023: [Assisted dying two years on: is access equal for everyone?](#)

And a personal story from one of our advisors:

- New Zealand Doctor | Rata Aotearoa on 12th April 2023: [The first time I examined my beliefs and provided an assisted death.](#)

Seeking Advice and Opinion



The Government is required to review the End of Life Choice Act this year.

The research team is working towards a submission for the review within this project's scope, which is cognisant of the stories and issues raised through this research, and other adjacent ongoing projects.

While the team is awaiting the terms of reference and focus for the review, we are keen to hear your opinions on important issues. You can reach us at assisteddyingresearch@vuw.ac.nz

Exploring the early experiences of the assisted dying service in Aotearoa

UPDATES

May 2024

Students

With support and resources funding from the Health Research Council and collaborating universities, the team is pleased to have brought several post-graduate students into working alongside the project research. The team is working through carefully planning opportunities for additional high-calibre and well-suited students to be supervised by team members where time and capacity allow.

Upcoming Conferences

Trans-Tasman Voluntary Assisted Dying Conference, 28-29 October 2024, Brisbane, co-hosted by Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia New Zealand, Go Gentle and the Australian Centre for Health Law Research in Brisbane. Their call for abstracts closes 30 May. This conference aims to bring assisted dying clinicians and policymakers together to have fruitful discussions on the uniqueness and commonalities of Australia and New Zealand's assisted dying services.

Hospice New Zealand Palliative Care Conference 04 - 05 November 2024, Wellington, will be held at the Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Center. Their call for abstracts includes the desire for hastened death and closes 21 June.

OUR RESEARCH

This project was developed through stakeholder engagement. We are exploring the early experiences of 103 people from key groups involved across the assisted dying process and has a longitudinal case study with Taranaki Iwi about their responses to assisted dying. Findings from these qualitative data will advance the 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, guidance for providers, and patients and family. This research was supported with funding from the Health Research Council of NZ.

From the whole team, we are deeply grateful to participants and to you all for your support and contributions.

Ngā mihi maioha. Noho ora mai.



Photo on Left (left to right): Gary Cheung, Tess Moeke-Maxwell, Kate Diesfeld, Aida Dehkoda, 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).

For more information about the project and to see what else is happening, please visit:

tinyurl.com/assisted-dying-research