



Assisted Dying – Position Statement of Arohanui Hospice

July 2020

The vision of Arohanui Hospice is that all people with life-limiting conditions live well and die well irrespective of their condition or care setting.

Arohanui Hospice does not support nor oppose a change in the law to legalise assisted dying. Our focus is on ensuring people under our care and their families receive the best possible end of life care and to advocate for provision of accessible specialist palliative care nationally.

Assisted dying (whether referred to as euthanasia, voluntary assisted dying or physician assisted suicide) is not part of palliative care practice ^{1,2}and Arohanui Hospice will not provide this. We recognise and respect the personal views of staff and volunteers working within hospice care which reflect the diversity of opinion regarding assisted dying in wider society. The clear position of Arohanui Hospice, as stated above, is that Arohanui Hospice provides specialist end of life palliative care which does not include assisted dying.

¹-ANZSPM 2017: <http://www.anzspm.org.au/position-statement-on-euthanasia-and-assisted-suicide>

²-RACP November 2018: *RACP Statement on Voluntary Assisted Dying: (2018)*
<https://www.racp.edu.au/.../racp-voluntary-assisted-dying-statement-november-2018>.

Palliative Care is defined by WHO (2013) as: "...an approach to care that improves the quality of life of patients (adults and children) and their families who are facing the problems associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and correct assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, whether physical, psychosocial or spiritual. Palliative care also respects the choice of patients and helps their families to deal with practical issues, including coping with loss and grief throughout the illness and in case of bereavement."

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