

## **Arohanui Hospice Statement**

Arohanui Hospice's position on euthanasia and assisted dying is underpinned by specialist expertise in end-of-life care and the foundation principles of palliative care.

Chairperson, Lorraine Vincent, said "the governance team confirmed neither euthanasia nor assisted dying is consistent with the foundation principle of hospice and palliative care globally, which is to neither hasten nor postpone the natural progression of death".

Arohanui Hospice will continue to support all our patients and families using the principles of excellent palliative care. Our staff will not assess eligibility for assisted dying, nor deliver or be present during the administration of lethal doses of medication.

"Arohanui Hospice will remain a euthanasia-free service," said Hospice Chief Executive, Clare Randall. "Our service supports and empowers people with a terminal illness to live well and die well. We are dedicated to responding to the unique, complex needs of every patient and their family/whanau".

As a specialist service providing care for a very vulnerable patient population, the Board believes it is important for Arohanui Hospice to be clear about its position, supporting patients and families with excellent palliative care no matter what their choice is regarding euthanasia or assisted dying.

Vincent, on behalf of the Hospice governance team, and Randall, want to reassure patients, their families/whanau, staff, volunteers, supporters and health sector colleagues that Arohanui Hospice will continue its current specialist palliative care, no matter what an individual's choice.

To summarise Arohanui Hospice's position:

1. Arohanui Hospice will respect a patient's decision should they choose the option of assisted dying and continue to provide the same compassionate care as it would any patient referred to its service.
2. Arohanui Hospice staff will not assess a patient's eligibility to pursue the option of assisted death.
3. Arohanui Hospice staff will not administer or be present at the time of administration of medications that are given with the intent to cause death either in community or in-patient settings.
4. Assisted dying (euthanasia) will not be undertaken in any of Arohanui Hospice's facilities, including the In-Patient Unit.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Chief Executive, Clare Randall.

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