



End of Life Choice



www.hospicewaikato.org.nz



We're here for family and whānau

At Hospice Waikato, part of our service to patients is bereavement support for their family and whānau.

If a patient chooses assisted dying intervention, our support remains. Whether a patient has included their family/whānau in the assisted dying decision or not, family members can continue accessing Hospice Waikato's bereavement support.



Life is a journey. And from first to last, all decisions along that journey are an individual's to make.

The choice is yours

For Hospice Waikato patients, this includes the choice to live as fully and comfortably as possible with our support, or to bring life to a close alongside an approved assisted dying service provider.

New Zealand gives you that choice

From 7 November 2021, the End of Life Choice Act becomes legislation, meaning people diagnosed with a terminal illness can ask for approved medical assistance to end their lives.

This pamphlet provides information about how Hospice Waikato connects patients with approved assisted dying service providers and works alongside the Act.

Hospice Waikato and assisted dying

Assisted dying intervention in New Zealand can only be carried out by providers approved by the New Zealand Ministry of Health.

Hospice Waikato is not an approved provider and interventions are not carried out in our Inpatient Unit. Additionally, Hospice Waikato staff cannot administer nor participate in assisted dying intervention.

What we can and will do is connect patients with approved providers if they choose.

With respect and care

At Hospice Waikato, we know these decisions can be very difficult. We care about our patients deeply and we support them fully if they choose to consider or access assisted dying services.

If an approved provider deems a patient eligible and they choose assisted dying intervention, our staff will always respect that choice.

Here's how we support choice

The reason Hospice Waikato exists is to help our patients live the remainder of their lives to the best of their ability. "Fully and comfortably" is our life-affirming purpose.

With that in mind, here's how Hospice Waikato walks with a patient if they decide to look into assisted dying

We're here to connect

Even though Hospice Waikato is not an approved provider, we can connect patients with a provider to have an informed conversation. Patients can then get the information they need to fully understand the service and decide if it's right for them.

For patients in our in-patient unit, approved providers can visit them for these discussions. Patients will have all the comfort and privacy they need for these important conversations.

Always in Hospice Waikato care

Those who choose to discuss assisted dying with an approved provider will remain a hospice patient. This gives them the freedom to change their minds up until the last moment. In the event that a change does occur, Hospice Waikato will be there to continue delivering palliative care.

We will help move patients

Patients in our in-patient unit can choose assisted dying intervention at their preferred location, such as their home.

Hospice Waikato will help arrange for the patient to move safely and in comfort, and they remain a Hospice Waikato patient throughout the transition. Once the patient is settled, our team members will leave the premises, and the approved assisted dying service provider will take responsibility for patient care.

The End of Life Services Act - the Facts

Hospice Waikato cannot and does not assess a patient's eligibility to access assisted dying services.

The legislation, however, does outline that individuals must:

- be 18 years or over
- be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident
- have an illness that's likely to end life within six months
- be in an advanced state of irreversible decline in physical health
- have unbearable suffering that can't be relieved in a way the person finds tolerable
- be able to make an informed decision about assisted dying. That means they understand information about assisted dying, can remember it, weigh it up, and communicate it.

Additionally, the Act states that a person who chooses to receive assisted dying intervention does not have to discuss their decision with their friends and family.

Connect to find out more

Hospice Waikato can connect patients to an approved assisted dying service provider who will give more information about the service and discuss eligibility.

To start a conversation with a provider, phone the Support and Consultation for End of Life in New Zealand (SCENZ) service on 0800 223 852.



334 Cobham Drive, Hillcrest, Hamilton, 3216
PO Box 325, WMC, Hamilton 3240
Telephone (07) 859 1260 | Fax (07) 859 1266
www.hospicewaikato.org.nz