

End of Life Choice



New Zealand votes YES for assisted dying

Voters in New Zealand have overwhelmingly supported the right of an eligible terminally ill person to seek legal assisted dying following a binding referendum.

- Over 65% of voters have backed the enactment of the *End of Life Choice Act 2019* which becomes law in November 2021, after a 12-month implementation period.
- The Act is a safe law that will transform the end of life experience for a small number of terminally ill people for whom palliative care cannot ease suffering.
- The "yes" verdict had been anticipated after polls suggested strong public support for the law, also backed by PM Jacinda Ardern and opposition leader, Judith Collins.
- Eligibility criteria are: suffering from a terminal illness that's likely to end life within six months; showing a significant decline in physical capability; and having the ability to make an informed decision about dying.
- A person cannot be eligible for on the basis of advanced age, mental illness, or disability alone.

"One day New Zealanders will shake their heads in amazement that the basic human right to say 'no' to intolerable suffering ever had to be debated in this country ... now because of the passing of this Act our lives as well as our deaths will be immeasurably better." (Campaigner Mary Panko)

References:

- Jha, P 'New Zealand euthanasia: Assisted dying to be legal for terminally ill people' BBC News <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-54728717>
- Aingie Roy, E 'New Zealand votes to legalise euthanasia in referendum' The Guardian 30 Oct 2020 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/30/new-zealand-votes-to-legalise-euthanasia-but-against-legalising-cannabis-in-referendum>
- Go Gentle Australia 'NZ votes Yes to compassion and choice' 30 Oct 2020 https://www.gogentleaustralia.org.au/nz_votes_yes_to_compassion_and_choice

*Compassion for suffering
The freedom to choose
Add your voice to the call*

SAVES was established in 1983 to campaign for legal, medically assisted voluntary euthanasia. The aim is to end suffering by providing choice in dying. SAVES works in the community and with Members of Parliament to achieve law reform.

SAVE-YA Syndicated Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Youth Advocates

Facebook: Support SAVE-YA Law Reform

A national youth lobby group which aims to provide a youth voice in support of legalising voluntary euthanasia in all States and Territories. Members between ages 18 and 35 are encouraged to join, make contact with their local MP and inform them of their support for voluntary euthanasia law reform.



Christians Supporting Choice For Voluntary Assisted Dying

christiansforvad.org.au

We are Christians who believe that, as a demonstration of love and compassion, those with a terminal or hopeless illness should have the option of a pain-free, peaceful and dignified death with legal voluntary assisted dying / voluntary euthanasia. This is strongly supported by the majority of Australian Christians.



South Australian Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying

facebook: SA Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying

We are a group of passionate nurses who believe in our patient's right to choose the end of life care they wish. The group provides a forum for the nursing voice and perspective on legalising voluntary euthanasia and other patient choices in end of life care.



MY BODY MY Choice-VE

facebook.com/pages/MY-BODY-MY-Choice-VE

MBMC provides a voice for people with disability in the VE reform debate. MBMC represents the interests of people with disabilities who wish to exercise choice in all aspects of their life, including choice at the end of life, with the view that choice and control are a fundamental human right for everyone.

MBMC argues that people with disabilities know how it feels to lose personal autonomy through their ongoing fight for self-determination, independent living and disability rights.

MBMC believes that people with disabilities, who have struggled to control their own lives and bodies, must be allowed to maintain control and autonomy throughout their life, especially at its end.



Doctors for Assisted Dying Choice

drs4assisteddyingchoice.org



We are a national organisation of Australian medical practitioners, both current and retired, who are committed to having a legal choice of providing information and assistance to rational adults, who, for reasons of no realistic chance of cure or relief from intolerable symptoms, would like to gently end their lives.

Assistance may be by doctor provision of medication for the patient to consume, or by doctor-administration.

Respecting rational patient end-of-life choices

Lawyers for Death with Dignity

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/1062e1_dd077d6dd79648c8baec58200361f054a.pdf

Lawyers for Death with Dignity acknowledges the need for people with profound suffering to have the legal choice for a medically assisted and dignified death.

The current law says suicide is not illegal, but assisting suicide is. People in a terminal state may have profound, unbearable suffering and be in the undignified position of being unable to end their life without assistance.

Advances in medicine have improved life expectancy, but South Australian law has not changed to reflect the often forgotten deterioration in quality of life that a longer life expectancy may bring.



Paramedics Supporting Choices in Dying

facebook: Paramedics Supporting Choices in Dying



Paramedics Supporting Choices in Dying is an advocacy group promoting the rights of people to make decisions regarding their end of life wishes.

To go without pain, without trauma, without breaking the law, without endangering others and without suffering. To go gently, peacefully and with dignity.

We support good palliative care, encourage the use of Advance Care Directives and advocate for law reform to legalise the choice for voluntary euthanasia and voluntary assisted dying.