



Hospice Southland statement on End of Life Choice Act

1 September 2021

The End of Life Choice Act passed in a binding referendum during the 2020 General Election. The Act makes it legal for certain terminally ill adults to request medical assistance with dying from 7 November 2021. The Ministry of Health is responsible for the Act and has a work programme to implement it. Information about this can be found on the Ministry of Health website (www.health.govt.nz).

Palliative care is an area of health care focused on affirming life and helping people with very serious or life-limiting illnesses live as comfortably as possible until natural death occurs. *This means palliative care focuses on "Living Every Moment", rather than shortening or lengthening the dying process.*

Hospice Southland's mission is not changing. Hospice Southland does not take any action to cause patients to die sooner than they would naturally.

- Assisted dying **is not** part of palliative care, therefore it **will not be provided** at Hospice Southland **or by** Hospice Southland staff. This includes the assessment process for assisted dying. The process for assisted dying is being coordinated by the Ministry of Health. (www.health.govt.nz).
 - However, Hospice Southland respects that people may have different beliefs and experiences. Hospice Southland will not turn away patients who support the concept of assisted dying or who are considering an assisted death, and we will continue to offer specialist palliative support to all who need and want it.
 - However, we will not be a party to an assisted death, nor will we allow it on our premises.
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