

Hospice South Canterbury's position on the End of Life Choice Act

Hospice South Canterbury

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While the End of Life Choice Act 2019 raises many ethical and moral issues for our patients, family/whānau, community and staff, it does not change how we practice.

In fact, we believe the law accentuates the importance of skilful attention to our patients' suffering, and we will continue to strive to minimise suffering be it physical, emotional, spiritual, social or psychological.

Hospice South Canterbury appreciates that there are a range of views on the challenging and emotive topic of assisted dying, and we respect that everyone has the right to their opinion. However, Hospice South Canterbury's guiding ethos is that we will neither hasten nor postpone death, and as such we will not allow assisted dying to take place on our premises. We recognise though that some patients may wish to discuss their options under the End of Life Choice Act, 2019.



Some staff are authorised to provide information, but only if asked directly. These staff are our Palliative Care Medical Specialist, Clinical Nurse Manager, our Nurse Team Leaders and our lead Counsellor. Other staff can offer initial information and direct you to these people



We will do this by helping the patient and their family/whanau to experience death and dying as peacefully and compassionately as possible. We will ensure that our patients receive an individual assessment of their needs so that the best palliative care is being provided.

If a patient is considering assisted dying our expert palliative care will continue regardless of the patient's choices, but an alternative venue will have to be used for the administration of assisted dying.

We will also allow a patient's own attending medical/nurse practitioner to discuss the patient's choices under the Act. We will also allow the independent medical practitioner and independent psychiatrist on to our premises to discuss with the patient their choices, as per the Act.

