

2026 Conference Programme —Imagining the Ideal Assisted Dying Service

This program may be subject to change (updated on 28 Nov 2025)

Venue is Rutherford House (RH), Victoria University of Wellington, Pipitea Campus - 33 Bunny Street, Pipitea, Wellington

Pipitea Campus Map [\[PDF\]](#)

Thursday 12 February 2026 – Day 1			
Time		Session	Location
09:00 onwards		Registration Desk Opens	RH Ground Floor Foyer
09:00 – 10:00		Networking Breakfast for Assisted Dying Providers	RH Ground Floor Foyer
10:00 – 10:05		Official Welcome Mihi whakatau, Welcome, Housekeeping	RH Lecture Theatre 2
10:05 – 11:05		Keynote Presentation James Downar: Assisted dying: What can we measure and what does this tell us?	RH Lecture Theatre 2
11:05 – 11:35		Featured Speaker Jeanne Snelling: Setting the Scene: Regulatory Review	RH Lecture Theatre 2
11:35 – 12:00		Morning Tea	Ground Floor Foyer
CONCURRENT SESSION 1 – Day 1: 12:00 – 13:30			
Time	Presenter	Title	Location/Co-authors
12:00 – 13:30	Mate Whakaahuru and Mana Motuhake: Indigenous Jurisdiction, Tikanga, and Spirituality		Room RH103
	Kendra Ellis	Changing Perspectives – What Assisted Dying Taught Me About Choice and Care	
	Marshall Setu	He kākano i ruia mai: Protecting whanau Māori in the assisted dying process in Aotearoa	
	Richard Egan	The Quiet Thread: Spirituality’s Role in Aotearoa New Zealand’s Assisted Dying Experience	Jessica Young and HRC Research Team

12:00 – 13:30	Practising with Compassion: Perspectives from Nurses, Doctors, and Non-Providers in Assisted Dying		Room RH104
	Waqas Arshad	The first year of assisted dying in New Zealand through the lens of healthcare professionals not directly involved in the process	Gary Cheung, Aida Dehkoda
	Yi Jeng Chan	Exploring the Emotional Experiences of Non-Provider Health Professionals Involved in Assisted Dying in New Zealand	
	Heather Bustin	Exploring the Assisted Dying Service experiences of nurse practitioners and medical practitioners	Kate Reid, Cathy Andrew
12:00 – 13:30	Whose Choice Is It? Navigating Assisted Dying Across Time, Autonomy, and Access Chair: Ben White		Room RH105
	Jessica Young	Is there a right time to die? Patients, families and providers’ experiences of assisted dying decision-making.	Antonia Lyons, Kevin Dew, Richard Egan
	Uma Devi Ananth	Navigating Autonomy and Constraint in Assisted Dying: A Tōtara Hospice Case Study	Susan Fryer
	Kate Diesfeld	Barriers and Facilitators to the Assisted Dying Service According to Deaf and Disabled People and Their Whānau	Pip Patston
13:30 – 14:15		Lunch	Ground Floor Foyer
CONCURRENT SESSION 2 – Day 1: 14:15 – 15:45			
Time	Presenter	Title	Location/Co-authors
14:15 – 15:45	The Gift That Follows Goodbye: Experiences of Organ and Tissue Donation After Assisted Dying		Room RH103
	Kim Grayson	Building a national program for donation after Assisted Dying in Aotearoa New Zealand from the ground up	
	Sharon Skinner	The lived experience of Organ and Tissue Donation after Assisted Dying in New Zealand	Leigh Travers, Rosie Stewart, Sam Hansen
	Wade Stedman	A Gift at Life's End: Exploring Organ Donation after Voluntary Assisted Dying	

14:15 – 15:45	Between Resistance and Reform: Institutional Objection and Equitable Assisted Dying		Room RH104
	Ben White	Institutional Objection to Voluntary Assisted Dying: Research findings from Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia and Canada	
	Lisa Blyth	Nowhere to Go: The impact on Families When Voluntary Assisted Dying Cannot Occur in a home, hospice or hospital setting.	
	Aida Dehkoda	Best practice model for integrating assisted dying into the healthcare system: what's working well?	Jessica Young
14:15 – 15:45	Supporting Safe Practice: The Roles of SCENZ, Review Committees, and Competency in Assisted Dying		Room RH105
	Te Hurinui Karaka-Clarke	SCENZ: Who are we and what do we do?	Michael Austen, Kynan Bazley, Jackie Robinson
	Brenda Close	End of Life Review Committee: who we are and what we do	Elizabeth Fenton, Danielle Heron
	Jackie Robinson	Competencies for healthcare professionals providing an assisted death from the perspectives of patients and whānau	
15:45 – 16:00	Afternoon Tea		Ground Floor Foyer
16:00 – 17:00	Keynote Presentations Annabel Ahuriri-Driscoll & Te Hurinui Karaka-Clarke: Titiro whakamuri, kia anga whakamua – Māori Perspectives on Assisted Dying Tess Moeke-Maxwell: Waerea Study: Initial Findings Chair: Richard Egan		RH Lecture Theatre 2
17:00 – 17:45	Assisted Dying Provider Panel Panellists: Katie Ben, Shane Dunphy, & Sheila Hart. Chair: Jackie Robinson		RH Lecture Theatre 2
19:00	Networking Dinner (Ticketed) at St John's Bar and Restaurant		5 Cable Street, Te Aro

Friday 13 February 2026 – Day 2

Time	Session	Location
08:00 onward	Registration for Day 2	RH Ground Floor Foyer
08:30 – 09:15	Featured Speaker Dr Jessica Young and the HRC Research Team: Safety, access and equity: Are we there yet?	RH Lecture Theatre 2
09:15 – 09:45	Invited Speaker Kristin Good	RH Lecture Theatre 2
09:45 – 10:00	Morning Tea	Ground Floor Foyer
10:00 – 11:00	Keynote Presentation Ben White: Optimal regulation of voluntary assisted dying: Reflections from a 4-year multi-country study	RH Lecture Theatre 2

CONCURRENT SESSION 3 – Day 2: 11:00 – 12:30

Time	Presenter	Title	Location/Co-authors
11:00 – 12:30	Threads of Care: Provider Perspectives, Children, and Vulnerability in Assisted Dying		Room RH103
	Gary Cheung	Early implementation of assisted dying in Aotearoa New Zealand: Perspectives from providers and healthcare professionals	Aida Dehkhoda, Eric Zhou
	Tess Moeke-Maxwell	Suicide risk after ineligible assisted dying assessment: The first indigenous case report from Aotearoa	Gary Cheung
	Freyja Mann	How to talk to tamariki (children) and mātātahi (young people) about assisted dying	Nic Russell
11:00 – 12:30	Care at the Crossroads: Nursing, Culture, and Compassion in Assisted Dying		Room RH104
	Rosalie McLauda	Sees, Feels, Listens, Hears, of Utmost Importance, Truly Cares: End-of-Life Nurse Narratives from the Implementation of the End-of-Life Choice Act	Rhona Winnington
	Fahana Binte Mohd Sulong	When Cultures Collide: Internationally Qualified Nurses Navigating Assisted Dying in New Zealand's Autonomy-Based System	Rabikah Begum

	Isaac Amankwaa	Evolving Nursing Roles in Assisted Dying Services: Lessons for Imagining Ideal Care	Cathy Liu, Jacqui Coates-Harris, Mellisa Chin, Sharon Brownie, Patricia McClunie-Trust
11:00 – 12:30	Walking Together: Whānau, Support, and Grief in Assisted Dying		Room RH105
	Manu Pelayo	Whānau and assisted dying: A qualitative study of family experiences in Aotearoa New Zealand	
	Treza Gallogy	Real-life experience of Doulas supporting families through the AD process in Aotearoa	Sarah Carberry
	Aida Dehkhoda	Grieving the Chosen Death: A Synthesised Grief Framework for Assisted Dying	Jessica Young and the HRC Research Team
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch (Concurrent for AD providers: Te Whatu Ora Peer Support Group)		Ground Floor Foyer
13:30 – 14:15	Learning from Experience: Family Panel Panellists: Margaret Tennant, Robyn Tyler, & Andrew Crawford. Chair: Aida Dehkhoda		RH Lecture Theatre 2
14:15 – 15:00	Integrating Assisted Dying Panel Panellists: James Jap, Kynan Bazley, & Fiona Bailey. Chair: Jeanne Snelling		RH Lecture Theatre 2
15:00 – 15:15	Afternoon Tea		Ground Floor Foyer
15:15 – 16:00	Imagining the Future of Assisted Dying in Aotearoa NZ Panel Panellists: Kristin Good, Michael Nestmann, James Downar & Tess Moeke-Maxwell. Chair: Jessica Young		RH Lecture Theatre 2
16:00	Closing		RH Lecture Theatre 2