

Exploring the Early Experiences of the Assisted Dying Service in Aotearoa

UPDATE

May 2026

Conference: Imagining the Ideal Assisted Dying Service

Our team are still ecstatic after our [conference](#) hosted in Wellington over the 12–13th of February this year. This conference was a major event for our team to share mahi from the project and encourage korero among service providers and policy makers. We are grateful to have had such respectful attendees which made for phenomenal presentations and discussions.

We would like to extend huge thanks and appreciation to all our keynote speakers, presenters, panellists and audience – among them practitioners, researchers, bereaved whānau, service providers and organisational bodies who continue work towards providing an ideal assisted dying service with compassion.

We are incredibly grateful to have hosted this conference with sponsorship from the Health Research Council, the Michael and Suzanne Borrin Foundation, Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington and VADANZ.

Seeking further input

We've written a resource for adults with a terminal illness who are thinking about choosing assisted dying. Its purpose is to help people think about, ask for and plan an assisted death. It is meant to complement, not replace, the information pack from the AD Service.

We used the experiences participants shared with us and other available information to write the document. Many participants said they were willing to help further with our research. We're seeking your help to finish the document. You can help us by reading the resource and telling us what you like and don't like about it in a short survey. If you are willing, please read the online participant information sheet and complete the consent form.

The [survey](#) is open to the **family members we interviewed whose relative was found eligible for assisted dying**, whether or not they ultimately received it. **Assisted dying providers** are also invited to give their feedback. The survey is open until 22nd May.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact study lead Dr Jessica Young at assisteddyingresearch@vuw.ac.nz

New Resources

Several resources are in development for service users, whānau and health practitioners. You can follow updates on our [website](#).

There you'll find links from our collaboration with Kenzie's Gift on their resource about how to talk to young people about assisted dying and our endorsement of Tōtara Hospice's e-learning modules for health professionals about assisted dying. Pou Kāpura ('beacon of light') is a [website](#) with information and resources from the Waerea research study about Māori whānau experiences of assisted dying.

Podcast:

We are going to release a short podcast series speaking about the findings from the project.

Articles Underway:

Members of the team are writing several articles and have completed several already. Open access [research briefings](#) to accompany the academic articles will be published to our [website](#).

If you have ideas for resources that would benefit from collaboration with our project, please contact assisteddyingresearch@vuw.ac.nz

New Logo

We are grateful for the work of Emily Garden from Into the Frame for designing our project's logo. The logo represents connection and community.

