

Exploring the Early Experiences of the Assisted Dying Service in Aotearoa

UPDATE

December 2025

Imagining The Ideal Assisted Dying Service Conference

12–13 February 2026, Victoria University of Wellington—Te Herenga Waka

International and Māori keynote speakers, family members with lived experience, and the latest research.

In-person and virtual registrations close **31 January**.

www.tinyurl.com/ADconferenceNZ

Tickets and information:



Publications

It was a huge undertaking to conduct analysis on the 96 participants interviews. Our team are working hard on a large variety of publications for academic, legal and health audiences.

Ben White has lead the project's first paper on institutional objection to assisted dying, attached to this email: [Institutional objection to assisted dying: A qualitative study of stakeholders in Aotearoa New Zealand](#). A research briefing will be produced and hosted on our website.

White, B. P., Young, J., Dehkoda, A., Snelling, J., Diesfeld, K., Cheung, G., ... Ahuriri-Driscoll, A. (2025). Institutional objection to assisted dying: A qualitative study of stakeholders in Aotearoa New Zealand. *Death Studies*, 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2025.2585936>

Evidence Presented to UK House of Lords

As the UK debates the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, Jessica Young and Jeanne Snelling were invited to give evidence on behalf of Aotearoa and the project which was well received. You can watch the committee discussion and evidence by following this link:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/event/25328/formal-meeting-oral-evidence-session/>.

Resources

Several resources are in development for service users, whānau and health practitioners. You can follow updates on our website:

<https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/assisted-dying>.

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

Pilot Study – Assisted Dying Support Groups

Building on this project, Aida Dehkoda's pilot study is aimed at providing a space for family, AD providers, and non-provider health professional groups to process the unique aspects of AD bereavement, express feelings, share experiences, and receive support in navigating the potential stigma of AD.

Recruitment has concluded and there has been heart-warming feedback so far from participants.