

Exploring the Early Experiences of the Assisted Dying Service in Aotearoa

UPDATE

September 2026

Publications

Dehkoda, A., Young, J., Cheung, G., Diesfeld, K., Snelling, J., Reid, K., ... White, B. (2026). [Grieving Assisted Dying: A Synthesised Grief Framework](#). *Death Studies*, 1–18. (free to access)

Karaka-Clarke, T., Robertshaw, C., & Clarke, A. (2025). [Pūrākau, Death, and Assisted Dying: A Māori Framework for Understanding End-of-Life](#). *International Journal of Indigenous Health*, 21(1), 1-18. (free to access)

Adler, J., & Snelling, J. (2025). [Regulating clinician speech in assisted dying: Using a sledgehammer to crack a nut?](#) *Otago Law Review*, 18(2), 335-360. (available upon request)

White, B., Young, J. et al (2026). Research briefing on Institutional Objection to Assisted Dying in Aotearoa. Victoria University of Wellington. <https://doi.org/10.25455/wgtn.31302127> (free to access)

Resources

Several resources are for people considering assisted dying, bereaved people, and health practitioners are now freely available on our [website](#) (scroll down to Resources). **We welcome you to share these widely. We are pleased to announce that the guides are being incorporated by the Assisted Dying Service.**

We've developed a guide for adults with terminal illness who are thinking about choosing assisted dying. Its purpose is to help people think about, ask for and plan an assisted death.

Participants told us there was a need for specific assisted dying bereavement support. Another guide provides information and support for people grieving the assisted death. It explains some of the unique experiences associated with assisted dying grief and offers strategies and support options for coping before and after the death.

Picking a date for assisted dying is a hard part of the process. We have produced a resource targeted towards assisted dying providers to help them talk with patients and whānau about setting their date.

A fourth guide is on its way which supports whānau, hapū, and iwi to have open, respectful discussions about assisted dying. The kaupapa is to support increasing understanding, aroha, and manaakitanga for whānau and communities seeking to understand assisted dying.

We're very grateful to the people who provided insightful feedback to help us refine the resources.

Podcast

New podcast series: [From Policy to Practice: Learning from Assisted Dying Experiences](#).

What is assisted dying like in practice, for the people who seek it, support it, provide it and shape the system around it? Our project podcast shares insights from research with applicants, families and whānau, health professionals, providers, service leaders and Māori communities, highlighting what is working well and where the assisted dying service could better support safety, equity, cultural safety and access in Aotearoa New Zealand.

We're launching the podcast and resources as part of [Dying Matters Week](#). **We invite you to join us** for a short talk and Q&A at 12.30-1.30pm, Wednesday 9th September. You can attend using this link: <https://vuw.zoom.us/j/99297299264>

We mihi to our guests for coming on the podcast and sharing their experiences and expertise with us. Let us know what you think of the podcast by email assisteddyingresearch@vuw.ac.nz.

Upcoming talks

You're welcome to join Dr Jessica Young sharing project findings at these online events.

University of Otago Department of Bioethics Seminar: Negotiating Death at the Margins: Assisted Dying, Access, and Equity, 18th September 2026, 11am.

<https://otago.zoom.us/j/922351556?pwd=NGZIZEFJendvcTdNVHVzbnBIMY1JPQT09>

Meeting ID: 922 351 556 Password: 595584

Association for the Study of Death and Society Designing Death: Assisted Dying Systems and Their Consequences, Tuesday 29th September, 10pm. Book: deathandsociety.org/online-events-series