

16 October 2024

Vince

fyi-request-28699-bfd1deba@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Vince

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00068096

Thank you for your email on 9 October 2024, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Is there any record keeping where an eligible for assisted death service due to suffering from a terminal illness that is likely to end their life within six months. But have been acknowledged the below

1 aged 18 years or over

2 a citizen or permanent resident of New Zealand in an advanced state of irreversible decline in physical capability

3 experiencing unbearable suffering that cannot be relieved in a manner that the person considers tolerable competent to make an informed decision about assisted dying.

Response

All patients applying for assisted death must meet the strict criteria to be eligible as set out under the [End Of Life Choice Act 2019](#) (The Act). The person must be:

- aged 18 years or over
- a citizen or permanent resident of New Zealand
- suffering from a terminal illness that is likely to end their life within six months
- in an advanced state of irreversible decline in physical capability
- experiencing unbearable suffering that cannot be relieved in a manner that the person considers tolerable
- competent to make an informed decision about assisted dying.

A person cannot access assisted dying solely because they have a mental disorder or mental illness, have a disability or are of advanced age. However, people with these conditions may be eligible to access assisted dying if they meet the strict eligibility criteria set out above.

Health NZ is responsible for overseeing and monitoring all operational aspects of the Assisted Dying Service, including collecting data and generating comprehensive summary reports. These can be found on our website: <https://www.tewhātuora.govt.nz/health-services-and-programmes/assisted-dying-service/assisted-dying-service-data-and-reporting>.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at HNZOIA@tewhātuora.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'MN' followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a small dot.

Michael Nestmann

Manager | Autonomy Team – Community and Mental Health
Planning, Funding and Outcomes