

Safeguarding Last Wishes

Navigating the Ethical Journey Between Assisted Dying and Organ Donation

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Background

The introduction of Assisted Dying (AD) to New Zealand raises new ethical challenges for the intersection between AD and deceased organ donation. These challenges need to be addressed to maintain public trust in donation processes.

What did we do?

Organ Donation New Zealand (ODNZ) undertook a collaborative process to create an Ethics Framework for Assisted Dying Donation (ADD). Multiple iterations were required to enable broad consultation and update clinical insights from overseas. The framework aimed to guide clinical practice in providing an equitable opportunity to donate for those undergoing Assisted Dying. Consultation remains ongoing.

What did we learn?

Key ethical principles were identified:

- Preserving the dignity and mana of the end-of-life experience for the donor.
- Navigating first person autonomous consent and self-determination in two separate clinical pathways
- Avoiding any influence, coercion or conflict-of-interest in making the right choice
- Upholding the right of conscientious objection for healthcare providers

Health Ethics
Review
Boards



Expert
Consultation
Palliative Care
Bio-medical ethics



Iterative
Writing Process



International
Literature
Review Process



Learning from
Overseas
Guidelines



Māori and Disability
Consultation



Respecting Te Ao Māori and Te Tiriti o Waitangi
Kāwanatanga (Partnership) | Rangatiratanga (Self-Determination) | Ōritetanga (Equity)
Wairuatanga (Spirituality) | Kaitiakitanga (Stewardship) | Tikanga (Right Process)

