



# End-of-Life Choice

## Society of New Zealand Inc

February 2018 END-OF-LIFE CHOICE SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INC Issue 49  
Member of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies

### EDITORIAL - 2018 IS MAKE OR BREAK YEAR

We have entered a critical new year for the cause we have been fighting four decades so far.

Whether it will prove to be a happy one remains to be seen.

For while we made history in December when Parliament voted for the first time to allow an assisted dying Bill to progress beyond the first stage, we can have no doubts about the struggle ahead to win the ultimate human right of the 21st century.

It has never been more important for every member of our society to do whatever they can to promote the right to die with dignity and persuade our politicians to go on and pass an enlightened law.

This is a make or break year. It has been 15 years since Parliament last tackled the issue and if we miss out on this opportunity there will be another long gap before it faces it again.

We know our cause is just and a snap opinion poll in the *New Zealand Herald* after that historic vote on December 13 showed an overwhelming 92% of voters agree.

Our opponents - diehard religious

conservatives - are in a minority but they are bent on fighting a campaign blatantly built on lies and misinformation to stop us and overseas experience shows they are funded by wealthy church coffers.

We expect a better deal from Parliament's Justice Select Committee than we received from the biased group that last considered the issue, but we have only until February 20 to make formal submissions and we need all our members to make their voices heard.

The committee then has until mid-September to make its recommendations to Parliament before all MPs vote again on whether New Zealand will join 110 million Americans and millions more in Canada, Europe, South America and Australia with the right to allow our terminally ill who are suffering intolerably to die peacefully and with dignity in the presence of their loved ones.

See how you can help at  
<https://yestodignity.org.nz>  
Please do your bit.

### AN APPEAL FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kiaora koutou katoa - Happy New Year to all. What a busy year it will be and one in which we need your support more than ever before.

By September 13, the Justice Select Committee is bound to report back to Parliament on their consideration of David Seymour's End of Life Choice Bill, which was passed on a historic first reading by 76 votes to 44 in December.

Now we must encourage all our supporters to make submissions to the Committee in order to convince all 76 pro-voters (and hopefully persuade some of the opponents) to back its second reading and beyond, into the new law we are fighting for.

These submissions will necessarily be different from those people put in last year on our general petition on the question because it is about a specific draft law, not simply on the general issue which we are

advancing.

Many of you, I know, who worked so hard last time, will be sighing "Not again!", but I cannot tell you how important it is that we throw everything we have got into it this year.

This is my appeal to you to do several things to help:

- 1 Visit and get to know our new campaign website: <https://yestodignity.org.nz>. Then pass it on to others.
- 2 Become familiar with the Bill – you will find a link and a summary of it on:  
<https://yestodignity.org.nz/the+bill+explained>.
- 3 Write a letter, card, email, opinion piece for your local newspaper, or send a letter to the

*Continued Page 2*

Editor of magazines or newspapers you read, and send copies to your local MPs, urging them to support the Bill. You will find many examples which your committee members have written, posted on our website. You can use them as templates if that helps.

***Remember to include any List MPs who live in your area or represent it as a buddy MP from any party other than your constituency MP – they also have a vote.***

- 4 Turn your letter or article or email into a submission and send it to the Select Committee. You can see how to do that on the website here:

[https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/52SCJU\\_SCF\\_BILL\\_74307/end-of-life-choice-bill](https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/52SCJU_SCF_BILL_74307/end-of-life-choice-bill).

- 5 If you do not use a computer, you can write your submission as a letter - or just write a sentence saying that you are in favour of the Bill - and post **TWO COPIES** to:

**Andy Gardner, Committee Secretariat, Justice Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington**

***Make sure you get it into the clerk of the committee by Tuesday February 20, the closing date for submissions.***

- 6 Donate money to support our campaign. See the Donate button on our website or contact your nearest branch representative by looking here:

<https://yestodignity.org.nz/contact>.

We have achieved a lot so far, but we must not get to the middle of September wishing we had done more. Our opponents have deeper pockets than us. We have to be smart, consistent and determined.

You will be aware that we are using social media more because that offers best chances of getting our message out to a wider audience. We will still do interviews, opinion pieces and items for mainstream media but many people get their news from alternative sources today.

We have much to do.  
Here's hoping for a successful outcome in 2018.

Arohanui / kind regards

Maryan Street



## **TWO NEW WEAPONS IN THE CAMPAIGN**

**We have two new weapons in the campaign for a law change as Parliament continues to consider the issue of physician-assisted dying.**

The EOLC Society has launched a new website <https://yestodignity.org.nz> which explains the Bill currently before Parliament, gives news and events, answers frequently asked questions and explains how you can help the cause at this critical stage.

We have also launched a book called ***Dying Badly - New Zealand Stories*** which includes many heart-rending accounts of bad deaths suffered by relatives and friends of people who made submissions to the last Parliament's inquiry into voluntary euthanasia.

The book was compiled and edited by former EOLC Society president Dr Jack Havill and writer David Barber. ***It is available as a free e-book and can be downloaded from the yestodignity website.***

It has also been published as a paperback which can be purchased for \$10 from

**Central Office End-Of-Life Choice, PO Box 48 241, Silverstream, Upper Hutt 5142.**

**Email: office@eolc.org.nz.**

Or ask your branch officials if they have copies

## **WE ARE FORTY THIS YEAR**



**Our organisation is hoping to celebrate its 40th birthday this year with the law change it has long campaigned for.**



According to long-time members Frank Dungey and Beverley Hurrelle it all began in October 1978 following a visit by British end-of-life choice pioneer Derek Humphry to launch his book *Jean's Way* in which he admitted helping his cancer-stricken wife to end her suffering.

Humphry's wife Jean died three years earlier and he admitted to police that he had helped her take a lethal drink but was not prosecuted. He then moved to the US and founded the Hemlock Society. Frank and Beverley were founding members of the original Wellington Voluntary Euthanasia Society which operated independently of the Auckland society until the two merged to form the national organisation in September 2004.

Frank is writing a history of the society and runs the EOLC library, which has a large collection of books available for loan to members. Contact him at [library@eolc.org.nz](mailto:library@eolc.org.nz) if there is a book you would like to borrow.

## HOW THEY VOTED

**This is how Parliament voted on December 13 in the historic 76-44 ballot to give the End of Life Choice Bill a first reading and send it to a select committee for further consideration.**

Significantly, the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Justice Minister, and deputy leader of the Labour Party all voted in favour, in contrast to the position of the previous National-led government.

Most MPs were given a conscience vote, free of party direction, although the nine members of Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters' New Zealand First supported it only after getting backing for their demand that the issue go to a referendum before it could become law.

All eight members of the Justice Select Committee, which is now considering the Bill, voted for the measure.

Here is how the MPs voted. We publish the constituencies of those who opposed the measure to help members and their branches target their campaign to get minds changed before the Bill's second and third readings later this year.

### YES

**LABOUR** - Kiri Allan, Ginny Andersen, Jacinda Ardern, Tamati Coffey, Liz Craig, Clare Curran, Kelvin Davis, Ruth Dyson, Paul Eagle, Kris Faafoi, Peeni Henare, Chris Hipkins, Raymond Huo, Willie Jackson, Iain Lees-Galloway, Andrew Little, Marja Lubeck, Jo Luxton, Nanaia Mahuta, Trevor Mallard, Kieran McAnulty, Stuart Nash, Greg O'Connor, David Parker, Willow-Jean Prime, Priyanka Radhakrishnan, Grant Robertson, Adrian Rurawhe, Deborah Russell, Carmel Sepuloni, Jan Tinetti, Louisa Wall, Angie Warren-Clark, Duncan Webb, Meka Whaitiri, Michael Wood, Megan Woods

**GREEN PARTY** - Marama Davidson, Julie Anne Genter, Golriz Ghahraman, Gareth Hughes, Jan Logie, Eugenie Sage, James Shaw, Chloe Swarbrick

**NEW ZEALAND FIRST** - Darroch Ball, Shane Jones, Jenny

Marcroft, Ron Mark, Tracey Martin, Clayton Mitchell, Mark Patterson, Winston Peters, Fletcher Tabuteau.

### ACT - David Seymour

**NATIONAL** - Amy Adams, Paula Bennett, Chris Bishop, Jonathan Coleman, Matt Doocey, Andrew Falloon, Nathan Guy, Harete Hipango, Brett Hudson, Nikki Kaye, Matt King, Barbara Kuriger, Mark Mitchell, Jamie-Lee Ross, Scott Simpson, Stuart Smith, Erica Stanford, Anne Tolley, Tim van de Molen, Hamish Walker, Jian Yang.

### NO

**NATIONAL** - Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi (List, based in Manukau East), Maggie Barry (North Shore), Andrew Bayly (Hunua), David Bennett (Hamilton East), Simon Bridges (Tauranga), Simeon Brown (Pakuranga), Gerry Brownlee (Ilam), David Carter (List), Judith Collins (Papakura), Jacqui Dean (Waiktaki), Sarah Dowie (Invercargill), Bill English (List), Chris Finlayson (List), Paul Goldsmith (List, based in Epsom), Jo Hayes (List, based in Christchurch East), Steven Joyce (List), Nuk Korako (List, based in the Port Hills), Denise Lee (Maungakiekie), Melissa Lee (List, based in Mt Albert), Tim Macindoe (Hamilton West), Todd McClay (Rotorua), Ian McKelvie (Rangitikei), Todd Muller (Bay of Plenty), Alfred Ngaro (List, based in Te Atatu), Simon O'Connor (Tamaki), Parmjeet Parmar (List, based in Mt Roskill), Chris Penk (Helensville), Shane Reti (Whangarei), Alastair Scott (Wairarapa), Nick Smith (Nelson), Louise Upston (Taupo), Nicky Wagner (List, based in Christchurch Central), Michael Woodhouse (List, based in Dunedin), Jonathan Young (New Plymouth), Lawrence Yule (Tukituki)

**LABOUR** - David Clark (Dunedin North), Anahila Kanongata'a-Suisuiki (List), Damien O'Connor (West Coast Tasman), Jenny Salesa (Manukau East), William Sio (Mangere), Jamie Strange (List), Rino Tirikatene (Te Tai Tonga), Phil Twyford (Te Atatu), Poto Williams (Christchurch East).

## REST IN PEACE FAYE CLARK



Faye Clark, who chaired the Waikato branch for five years while bravely enduring blood and bone cancer, died in December.

She indefatigably fought for the right to die at a time of one's choosing when life became too intolerable to bear, and was the public face of EOLC on many radio and TV programmes and newspaper articles.

People like Faye are who we are campaigning for. She died after long periods of suffering which friends said amounted to something akin to torture.

Faye was renowned for her courtesy and charm. She influenced the branch with her great attention to detail. Before retiring, she was Director of Libraries for Hamilton and a Marriage Celebrant and Justice of the Peace.

## WHAT WE ARE FIGHTING

**We are fighting ignorance, bigotry and blind dogma in our campaign for a compassionate and just law allowing freedom of choice to die with dignity.**

Some examples:

Lecretia Seales' widower Matt Vickers recalls being the first person to make a personal submission to the last Parliament's Health Select Committee, chaired by Simon O'Connor, who spent nearly 10 years training to be a Catholic priest before entering Parliament.

"Mr O'Connor had previously told the media he would listen to all views, and welcome debate. However, in that hearing, Mr O'Connor would barely meet my gaze. From the time I began speaking, to the time I finished, he spent the majority of his time looking at the papers laid out in front of him.

"Mr O'Connor is on record as being a guest speaker at a Palmerston North Parish in November 2015, outlining anti-assisted dying arguments, while the inquiry was underway. In interviews with Catholic publications during the inquiry, he encouraged people to submit to the committee against assisted dying.

"These are not the actions of a respectable select committee chair, a job he is paid over and above his standard MP salary to do."

Bill English, leader of the opposition National Party, speaking on July 30 2003 in Parliament's first debate on a Death with Dignity Bill: "Well, pain is part of life, and watching it is part of our humanity. Many of us have become more human for watching it, whether or not we liked doing that.

"I do not think it is a duty of this Parliament to remove the basic presumption against taking a life, in order to give comfort to those who encounter the very human experience of watching suffering."

In other words: "Suffering is good for us." He confirmed his thinking in last year's speech, saying that alleviating suffering was not a role for parliament.

O'Connor repeated the misleading line that

80% of submissions to his biased committee opposed VAD - these were predominantly the one-line statements of opposition the Catholic Church advised its members to submit - while continuing to ignore the fact that 75% of ALL voters want a compassionate law change. And he continued to link VAD with youth suicide - a link that is blatantly dishonest.

Maggie Barry's ridiculous claim that the Bill was a "licence to kill" incensed a dying EOLC member who dubbed the existing law a "licence to torture". She maintained her commitment to lies and misinformation, demonstrating, like her bigoted colleagues, continued refusal to act in accordance with the wishes of the voters who put her in parliament.

David Seymour pointed out that the six MPs who spoke against his Bill were all Catholics, but not one of them mentioned the fact or cited religious reasons for opposing it. This was in line with advice from pulpits across the country telling parishioners to avoid confessing their religious bias in submissions to the last Parliament's inquiry.

Opponents all claimed that safeguards in the Bill would not protect the vulnerable. On this issue, it was notable that while another Catholic, Chris Finlayson, voted against the Bill, he did not speak. For as Attorney-General in English's last Cabinet, Finlayson judged that the Bill was consistent with the Bill of Rights, reporting: "There are multiple safeguards built into the process, including ... stringent criteria for eligibility ... the requirement for an independent second opinion and referral to specialist (if necessary), and the ability for the person to change their mind at any time."

Seymour also quoted the Supreme Court of Canada as unanimously agreeing after an exhaustive trial in which they considered evidence from around the world "... that the risks associated with physician-assisted death can be limited through a carefully designed and monitored system of safeguards".

## BIG NAMES BACK OUR CAUSE

**One of the world's most highly regarded religious leaders, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, of South Africa, backed our campaign in a video released around the world.**

Archbishop Tutu, who is 86, said: "As a Christian I believe in the sanctity of life and that death is a part of life. I hope that when the time comes I am treated with compassion and am allowed to pass on to the next stage of life's journey in the manner of my choice.

"My friend Lord Carey (former Archbishop of

Canterbury) has passionately argued for an assisted dying law in the United Kingdom. His initiative has my blessing and support, as do similar initiatives in my home country South Africa, in the United States, New Zealand and parts of the European Union and right across the world.

"People who are terminally ill should have the option of dignified and compassionate assisted dying alongside the wonderful palliative care that already exists.

"I pray that politicians, lawmakers and

*Continued Page 5*

religious leaders have the courage to support the choices terminally ill citizens make in departing Mother Earth with dignity and love."

And Peter Singer, professor of bioethics at Princeton University and laureate professor at the University of Melbourne, rejected arguments that medical assistance in dying threatens the vulnerable. "We can draw on decades of experience with medical assistance in dying from other countries. They have been carefully studied and there has been no slippery slope to disaster," he said.

"If a doctor is willing to help a patient to die peacefully when the patient has made a careful and

reasonable request for that assistance, whose interest is furthered by turning that doctor into a criminal?"

Noting that objections to legalising assistance in dying came mainly from those with religious beliefs contrary to this practice, Singer said: "To them I would say that, just as with same-sex marriage, if they do not want something for themselves, they are free to avoid it.

"But we live in a pluralistic society. Not everyone holds religious views, and many who are religious do not accept that it is always wrong to assist someone to die. I cannot see why the minority who have religious objections to voluntary assistance in dying should try to deny it to others who do not share their beliefs."

## WHO KNOWS WHAT DOCTORS THINK?

**The New Zealand Medical Association, which claims to be the country's largest medical organisation but represents only about 20% of registered doctors, has asked its members for feedback on the End of Life Choice Bill, but has never actually surveyed them on the issue of assisted-dying.**

The NZMA claims that PAD is contrary to the ethics of the profession but does not know what the majority of doctors think, says former EOLC president Dr Jack Havill. He says a group of doctors who support PAD have sent the NZMA a scientifically based draft survey but have had no response. They also reject a so-called independent report on euthanasia published by the NZMA, which supports its stance.

## VICTORY IN VICTORIA

**If anyone doubts the need for dogged persistence in getting an assisted dying law introduced, they need only look across the Tasman to Australia.**

It had taken more than 50 attempts in jurisdictions across the country since 1993 before **Victoria** became the first state to pass enlightened legislation on November 29 last year. In 1995, the **Northern Territory** became the only place where a death with dignity bill became law but the federal government used its powers over the territory (which do not extend to control of the states) to overturn it two years later.

The Victorian victory came after over 100 hours of debate in the state parliament in Melbourne, including two sittings lasting more than 24 hours. The state government supported the Bill following two-and-a-half years of extensive consultation and a select committee inquiry that travelled to North America and Europe and reported "absolutely no evidence" to support opponents' claims that a law change would spark a "dangerous slippery slope".

Two weeks earlier, a private member's similar Bill in the **New South Wales** Parliament was defeated by just one vote (19-20) in the Upper House. Observers said it would have failed in the Lower House anyway.

The 15th attempt to pass assisted dying legislation in South Australia failed on the casting vote of the Speaker, a religious conservative.

The Victorian government claimed its law is the most conservative of its kind in the world, with at least 68 built-in safeguards. It will not come into effect until June

2019 after an implementation period to train medical professionals.

The law applies only to competent adults with no more than 12 months' life expectancy who must make three clear requests for assistance to die and undergo two independent medical assessments. They must take the lethal dose themselves, with doctor administration only available to those who cannot physically administer or digest it.

To prevent euthanasia tourism, applicants must have lived in Victoria for at least a year before making a request.

Safeguards protect the vulnerable from exploitation and coercion, with new criminal offences created to protect people from abuse.

The one-vote defeat in NSW showed legislators' support for assisted dying growing. Four years earlier, a similar bill was lost by 23 votes to 13.

MP Trevor Khan, whose Bill would have allowed assistance to die for terminally ill patients over the age of 25 with 12 months to live, pledged a new drive for a law change after the next election in March 2019.

The leader of the Australian Greens party, Dr Richard Di Natale, announced that he will promote a federal voluntary assisted dying Bill this year, using Victoria's law as its base. He said the Bill would be a framework for each state to launch its own legislation. He also wants to overturn the federal law that prevents the ACT and Northern Territory from legalising assisted dying in their jurisdictions.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

### BELGIUM

**The Belgian Brothers of Charity, a religious order which runs 15 psychiatric institutions with 5000 patients, said it would defy orders from the Vatican to stop offering euthanasia at its hospitals.**

Brother René Stockman, worldwide leader of the Rome-based Brothers of Charity which opposes euthanasia, warned its Belgian branch that it would lose the right to call themselves Catholic if they didn't abandon the euthanasia policy it adopted last March. He said it risked losing buildings that belong to the church.

The organisation which is Belgium's largest single provider of psychiatric care insisted that it was more Christian to allow people who are in "hopeless mental suffering" to choose if they want to live or die than tell them that euthanasia was not an option.

In 2002, Belgium became the first country with a majority Catholic population to legalize euthanasia.

The board said truly Christian values should prefer a "person's choice of conscience" over a "strict ethic of rules".

### BRITAIN

**A senior Anglican priest, Canon Rosie Harper, chaplain to the Bishop of Buckingham and a member of the General Synod, has spoken out in favour of assisted dying.**

In a controversial post on a blog site, she wrote: "Don't tell me that the time of someone's death is purely God's business. That at the moment when all a human soul wants is for it to end, God stands at the end of the bed and says: 'No my child, it is my will that you suffer just a few more days.' That is pure fatalism and superstition.

"Just when you might think we need our freedom the most the medical profession (by law) take it away from us. Just when you might think that God would most honour the freedom he has given us the Christian community take it away from us."

Although Lord Carey, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, has publicly supported assisted dying, it is rare for an active member of the Church of England to come out in favour.

**Dignity in Dying UK said in November a study found that thousands of terminally ill people who want to travel abroad to end their life in specialist clinics cannot afford to do so, leaving them often to face painful and traumatic deaths at home.**

Dignity in Dying says one British person travels to Dignitas in Switzerland to die every eight days. The study found that while more than half of Britons would consider travelling abroad to countries like Switzerland for an assisted death, only a quarter said they could afford the cost, averaging £10,000 (nearly NZ\$19,000).

**British motor neurone sufferer Noel Conway, 67, lost his High Court fight to allow doctors to help him have a "peaceful and dignified death". Three judges rejected in October his claim that the Suicide Act 1961 was incompatible with the European convention on human rights, which relates to respect for private and family life.**

"I am told the only option I currently have is to effectively suffocate to death by choosing to remove my ventilator, which I am now dependent on to breathe for up to 22 hours a day," he said. "There is no way of knowing how long it would take me to die if I did this, or whether my suffering could be fully relieved. To me, this is not choice – this is cruelty."

Conway, whose illness was diagnosed in November 2014, said it was no longer viable for him to travel to the Dignitas clinic, and he would not put his family or doctors at risk of prosecution by asking for their help to die at home.

**Another High Court judge, however, has ruled that doctors and relatives of patients with debilitating illnesses will no longer have to get court permission before withdrawing life support treatment. If all agree and medical guidelines are observed, they will no longer have to undergo the long-winded legal process to end an incapacitated patient's life.**

Judge Peter Jackson's ruling in the Court of Protection came in the case of a woman identified only as "M", aged 50, who suffered from Huntington's disease for more than 25 years. She was believed to be minimally conscious at a hospital and died 10 days after the judge granted permission for her feeding tubes to be withdrawn.

The judge said she had received continued CANH (clinically assisted nutrition and hydration) that neither her doctors nor her family thought was in her best interests for almost a year until a court ruling was eventually sought.

Sarah Wootton, chief executive of Compassion in Dying UK told *The Guardian* it was "a helpful step towards a clearer, more person-centred view of end-of-life care." She said doctors had been obliged to take such cases to court to protect themselves, a legal process involving costs of about £30,000 (nearly NZ\$57,000).

### ITALY

**After 30 years of on-off debate and more than 3,000 blocking amendments, the Italian Parliament passed a Bill on December 14 allowing adults to decide, in consultation with their doctors, their end-of-life medical care, including the right to refuse treatment. The law allows citizens to write living wills and refuse medicines, artificial nutrition and hydration.**

The bill overcame strong resistance from conservative Catholic legislators to be passed by 180 votes to 71 thanks to grass-roots lobbying, a sponsor told supporters.

Pope Francis unexpectedly bolstered the bill's prospects of the bill in November when he told a medical conference in the Vatican that while euthanasia or assisted suicide was not permitted, stopping treatment for terminally ill people could in some cases be "morally licit" and "acknowledges the limitations of our mortality, once it becomes clear that opposition to it is futile.

"It is clear that not adopting, or else suspending, disproportionate measures means avoiding overzealous treatment," he said.

## **SWITZERLAND**

"**Predictions of impending social disaster should assisted dying be made lawful are disproved by the situation in Switzerland," wrote Marshall Perron, former chief minister of Australia's Northern Territory, which passed voluntary euthanasia legislation in 1995, only to have it overturned by the federal government two years later.**

"Provided one does not benefit from the action, assisting suicide has not been an offence in the country for 60 years," he wrote, supporting proposed legislation in Victoria and New South Wales. "There are no restrictions. The person being assisted does not have to be an adult, or even ill. The person assisting does not have to be an adult or medically qualified. "Despite this extraordinary liberal situation, Swiss society has not broken down and the so-called vulnerable are not living in fear of being coerced into an early death. Switzerland is the only place in the world where foreigners can go to receive assistance to die. Several Australians have done so."

## **UNITED STATES**

**Medscape Medical News, an American news site for physicians, published the results of a recent poll showing that the number of US doctors who support the concept of assisted dying is rising although few have actually carried it out.**

The Vermont Medical Society (VMS) recently

became the ninth medical association to depart from the profession's long-standing opposition to physician-assisted dying.

The VMS joined state medical associations in California, Colorado, Maryland, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada and Oregon and the Medical Society of the District of Columbia in adopting a neutral stance on the issue.

The Medscape Ethics Report of 2016 found 57% of physicians believed medical aid in dying should be available to terminally ill patients, up from 46% in 2010. The general public is even more supportive, with 73% of US adults favouring legalised PAD in last year's Gallup poll.

Almost 300 physicians responded to the recent Medscape poll, 16% of them from the six states with a PAD law. 17% said that they assisted a patient to die, 13% had declined a request and 70% said they had never been asked.

Nearly two-thirds of responding physicians practicing in states where Pad is not legal said they had been in situations in which they patients could have been able to access assistance to die.

The VMS opposed the state's Death with Dignity bill which allows a physician to prescribe a lethal narcotic to a terminally ill patient who requests it when it was passed in 2013. The organisation now recognises PAD as a legal option while allowing members freedom to decide whether to participate.

## **BRANCH EVENTS**

**AUCKLAND              Sunday 15 April              2pm - Fickling Convention Centre, 546 Mount Albert Road, Three Kings.**

*Dave Mullan, our own advocate for End of Life Choice, will be interviewed by Dr Phillipa Malpas on his personal experiences of living with a terminal illness. Dave has blogged about his condition and views for a couple of years:*

<b>KAPITI/ HOROWHENUA</b>	<b>Saturday 20 January</b>	9am to midday - Mahara Place, Waikanae Market
	<b>Saturday 27 January</b>	9am to midday - Paraparaumu Beach Market & Coastlands Mall Stalls
	<b>Saturday 3 &amp; 10 February</b>	9am to midday - Coastlands Mall

*Promoting submissions on the EOLC Bill*

<b>BAY OF PLENTY</b>	<b>Thursday 18 January</b>	10am - Coffee morning, Zest Café, Greerton Village, Tauranga. <i>To assist members make online submissions. (Free cup of coffee)</i>
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## **CONTACT US**

### **CENTRAL OFFICE**

PO Box 48 241, Silverstream, Upper Hutt 5142

**Phone:** 09 215 4964

**Email:** office@eolc.org.nz

**Twitter@EndOfLifeChoice**

### **BRANCHES**

#### **AUCKLAND**

PO Box 66093,  
Beach Haven Auckland 0749  
**Phone:** 09 630 7035  
**Email:** auckland@eolc.org.nz

#### **KAPITI HOROWHENUA**

PO Box 224, Waikanae 5250  
**Phone:** 04 904 9449  
**Email:** Vesnzkh@actrix.co.nz

#### **WELLINGTON**

PO Box 48 241  
Silverstream, Upper Hutt 5142  
**Phone:** 04 972 8975  
**Email:** wgtnsec@gmail.com

#### **BAY OF PLENTY**

**Phone:** 021 123 3263  
**Email:** bop@eolc.org.nz

#### **WAIKATO**

PO Box 19 353, Hamilton 3244  
**Phone:** 07 843 6077  
**Email:** jackhavill@outlook.com

#### **CHRISTCHURCH SUB-BRANCH**

**Phone:** 03 741 1400  
**Email:** lindyharward@gmail.com  
or  
**Phone:** 03 385 2824  
**Email:** c\_abassi@hotmail.com

#### **HAWKE'S BAY**

**Phone:** 06 842 1267  
**Email:** suzannesimone2245@gmail.com

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** David Barber

## YOUR FINAL WISH - MAKING A BEQUEST

### Bequests are vital to the survival of any non-profit organisation.

Bequests provide ongoing funding streams. And make it possible to create long-term plans.

Bequests are the cornerstones of non-profit organisations, like **End-of-Life Choice**, because they provide stability.

If you can hear yourself saying, "*This is what I support, and I want this issue to be important even after I'm gone*" then please consider making **End-of-Life Choice** a beneficiary of your will by creating a bequest.

Ours is a unique issue, one in which our most ardent supporters might not be with us for long. Our fiercest opponents might later turn to us for help.

**You could consider asking friends to make a donation, in lieu of flowers, at your funeral.**

***Please take the step to support End-of-Life rights in your will.***

## DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

**You can make a contribution in any amount of your choice - in single, monthly, or yearly donations.**

- 1    Cheque payments can be mailed to  
**PO Box 48 241, Silverstream, Upper Hutt 5142**
  
- 2    Direct payments into our bank account **Kiwibank 38 9006 0226036 02**  
(Be sure to include your **NAME** and "**DONATION**" in the bank details).

**Your donations help us to continue the expansion of our work and help us continue to work for your right to make decisions for your End-of-Life Choice.**

## GUIDE TO DYING - YOUR WAY

**End-of-Life Choice has teamed with medical and legal experts to assemble a comprehensive step-by-step guide to help you create an Advance Directive that reflects your wishes.**

It also contains information on choosing an Agent, someone you entrust to ensure your wishes are carried out. This answers important questions you may have about writing an **Advance Directive**, which meets your personal wishes; it offers tips for relief of pain and suffering, the legality of an **Advance Directive** in New Zealand, and keeping your **Advance Directive** up to date.

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