

3 reasons to vote YES in the End of Life Choice referendum



Terminally ill New Zealanders need choice at the end of life. Here are three reasons to vote YES and make the voices of dying people heard:

1. The End of Life Choice Act gives dying people choice and control at the end of life.

The current law forces dying people to suffer against their wishes. Even though palliative care in New Zealand is excellent, for some people it is not enough to relieve their suffering. International data shows 2-5% of people suffer unbearably as they die. That's 220 to 250 New Zealanders every year. We must vote YES and give Kiwis with terminal illness the choice and control to end their lives on their own terms.

2. The End of Life Choice Act is a safe and effective law, with tried and tested safeguards built in.

The End of Life Choice Act has been approved by New Zealand Parliament. What's more, it has safeguards which are already working effectively in America, Australia and Canada. Our law says:

- Only terminally ill, mentally competent adults with six months or less left to live can request medication to end their life. No one else.
- A request for assisted dying must be approved by two doctors who carry out checks to make sure the person understands their options and is acting of their own free will.
- If at any stage doctors think a person is being pressured, the law says the process must stop immediately.
- A person who is eligible for an assisted death can stop or delay the process at any time.

3. The End of Life Choice Act will bring comfort to thousands of Kiwis.

Although only a small number of dying people will use the law, we will all benefit from the option being available. For some people with a terminal illness, just knowing they have the choice to end their suffering brings reassurance and peace of mind.