

Assisted Dying Service

Quarterly Report, Quarter Two 2024/25

Citation: Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora. 2025. *Assisted Dying Service Quarterly Report, Quarter Two 2024/25*. Wellington: Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora.

Published in January 2025 by Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora
PO Box 793, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

ISSN 3021-3657 (online)

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

This document is available at tewhatauora.govt.nz



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. In essence, you are free to: share i.e., copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format; adapt i.e., remix, transform and build upon the material. You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the licence and indicate if changes were made.

Foreword

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora is responsible for overseeing and monitoring all operational aspects of the Assisted Dying Service, including collecting data and generating summary reports. Information continues to be released quarterly, in line with the calendar year.

Due to low numbers, some quarterly data (such as the number of applications by month and region) cannot be reported to protect the privacy of the people engaging with the service.

Please note that the current report reflects a summary of individuals' interactions with the Assisted Dying Service within the three-month period from 1 October to 31 December 2024. Accordingly, medical assessments and outcomes may refer to applications initiated in a prior quarter.

A detailed report of the cumulative data across the first year of service (November 2021 – November 2022) is available on the Health NZ website: **[Assisted Dying Service yearly reporting](#)**. The 2024 annual service report will be published in the first quarter of 2025.

In addition, the second Annual Service report reflects a summary of individuals' interactions with the Assisted Dying Service between 07/11/2022 and 31/12/2023 which can be found here: **[Assisted Dying Service Yearly Report - November 2022 to December 2023](#)**.

Contents

Foreword	3
Assisted dying service activities this quarter	5
Overview of assisted dying service	5
Demographic summary of applications	6
Assisted deaths by location.....	7
SCENZ (Support and Consultation for End-of-Life in New Zealand) group and assisted dying practitioners	7

Assisted dying service activities this quarter

Overview of assisted dying service

Between 01/10/2024 and 31/12/2024, the service received 251 applications for assisted dying. There were also 133 applications active that had been initiated before this quarterly reporting period.

Attending medical practitioners (AMPs) completed 230 assessments and independent medical practitioners (IMPs) completed 188 assessments. Psychiatrists also completed some assessments (numbers withheld due to low numbers) in this period. In total, 148 applications were confirmed as eligible.

AMPs facilitated 128 assisted deaths during this quarter.

Of the applications reviewed during this period, 87 were still in progress as of 31/12/2024.

During this quarter, 89 applications did not proceed to an assisted death due to:

- the application being found to not comply with The End of Life Choice Act 2019
- the applicant withdrawing their application
- the applicant is found non-eligible or not competent to give consent at, or following, assessment
- the applicant dying due to underlying conditions.

Of the 251 applications received during this quarter:

- 77.1% were Pākehā
- 6.3% were Māori
- 44.6% were Female/ Wāhine; 55.4 % were Male/Tāne
- 75.7 % were aged 65 years or older
- 75.3 % were receiving palliative care at the time of the application
- 70.5 % had a diagnosis of cancer

Demographic summary of applications

A demographic summary of the 251 applications received this quarter is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Demographics of people that have applied for assisted dying services in the period

Demographic summary		Applications ³	% of applications
Ethnic group ¹	Māori	16	6.3%
	European	195	77.1%
	Asian	12	4.7%
	Other, incl. Pacific	30	11.9%
Sex	Female/Wāhine	112	44.6%
	Male/Tāne	139	55.4%
	Gender diverse	0	0.0%
Age Group	18-44 years	10	4.0%
	45-64 years	51	20.3%
	65-84 years	150	59.8%
	85+ years	40	15.9%
Diagnosis ²	Cancer	179	70.5%
	Neurological condition	17	6.7%
	Chronic Respiratory Disease	18	7.1%
	Cardio-vascular condition	7	2.8%
	Other organ failures	7	2.8%
	Multiple/Co-Morbidities	9	3.5%
	Not known ⁴	17	6.7%
Receiving palliative care at the time of application?	Yes	189	75.3%
	No	62	24.7%
	Not stated	0	0.0%
Reported a disability at the time of application?	Yes	22	8.8%
	No	229	91.2%
	Not stated	0	0.0%

Notes:

1. Total ethnicity has been used. This means that individuals reporting more than one ethnicity are included within each category to which they identify. Ethnicity in this report is based on patient records in the health system, while in the previous reports ethnicity in the application form was used.
 2. Total diagnosis has been used. This means that individuals presenting with multiple diagnoses are included within each applicable diagnostic category.
 3. Valid repeat applications are included as unique instances. This means, in cases where an individual submits multiple applications during this period, their information is recorded in the demographic data each time.
 4. 'Diagnosis not known' includes individuals who have applied but have not yet completed their first assessment with their AMP (Attending Medical Practitioner) as well as those that withdrew, died before this assessment was completed, or were ineligible.
-

Assisted deaths by location

Between 01/10/2024 and 31/12/2024, 128 people had an assisted death. Assisted deaths can take place at the person's home or elsewhere in the community. The summary by location is:

- 87 (or 68.0%) at the person's home
- 10 (or 7.8%) in a public hospital
- 31 (or 24.2%) in a community facility (e.g., aged residential care, hospice, retirement home, funeral home).

SCENZ (Support and Consultation for End-of-Life in New Zealand) group and assisted dying practitioners

As of 31/12/2024, 154 medical practitioners (including Doctors, and Psychiatrists) and 17 attending Nurse Practitioners (ANP) were on the SCENZ list.

The Support and Consultation for End-of-Life in New Zealand group (**SCENZ**) is responsible for maintaining the list of medical practitioners and psychiatrists involved in providing assisted dying services.

Medical practitioners can be on the SCENZ list for more than one role, depending on their scope of practice (AMP, IMP), Psychiatrist).

