

Assisted Dying Service

Quarterly Report, Quarter Three 2024/25

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

Published in April 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 January 2025 to 31 March 2025. Accordingly, medical assessments and outcomes may refer to applications initiated in a prior quarter.

Additionally, the 2024 Annual Service report and previously published reports since the service was established in Nov 2021, are available on our webpage: **[Assisted Dying Service data and reporting – Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora](#)**

Further information is also available through Registrar (assisted dying) Annual Report – June 2024, available through Manatū Hauora: **[Registrar \(assisted dying\) Annual Report – June 2024 | Ministry of Health NZ](#)**

Contents

Foreword3

Assisted dying service activities this quarter5

 Overview of assisted dying service 5

 Demographic summary of applications 6

 Assisted deaths by location 7

Assisted dying service activities this quarter

Overview of assisted dying service

Between 01/01/2025 and 31/03/2025, the service received 237 applications for assisted dying. There were also 87 applications active that had been initiated before this quarterly reporting period.

Attending medical practitioners (AMPs) completed 237 assessments and independent medical practitioners (IMPs) completed 202 assessments. Psychiatrists also completed some assessments (numbers withheld due to low numbers) in this period. In total, 162 applications were confirmed as eligible.

AMPs facilitated 107 assisted deaths during this quarter.

Of the applications reviewed during this period, 83 were still in progress as of 31/03/2025.

During this quarter, 92 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 237 applications received during this quarter:

- 78.2% were Pākehā
- 5.3% were Māori
- 51.1% were Female/Wāhine; 48.9% were Male/Tāne
- 81.9% were aged 65 years or older
- 85.2 % were receiving palliative care at the time of the application
- 62.0% had a diagnosis of cancer

Demographic summary of applications

A demographic summary of the 237 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	13	5.3%
	European	190	78.2%
	Asian, Pacific and Other	40	16.5%
Sex	Female/Wāhine	121	51.1%
	Male/Tāne	116	48.9%
	Gender diverse	0	0.0%
Age Group	18-64 years	43	18.1%
	65-84 years	152	64.1%
	85+ years	42	17.7%
Diagnosis ²	Cancer	165	62.0%
	Neurological condition	20	7.5%
	Chronic Respiratory Disease	19	7.1%
	Cardio-vascular condition	12	4.5%
	Multiple/Co-Morbidities incl. Other organ failures	22	8.3%
	Not known ⁴	28	10.5%
Receiving palliative care at the time of application?	Yes	202	85.2%
	No	35	14.8%
	Not stated	0	0.0%
Reported a disability at the time of application?	Yes	27	11.4%
	No	210	88.6%
	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 01/01/2025 and 31/03/2025, 107 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:

- 74 (or 69.2%) at the person's home
- 4 (or 3.7%) in a public hospital
- 29 (or 27.1%) in a community facility (e.g., aged residential care, hospice, retirement home, funeral home).