

Eight Reasons to Repeal End of Life Choice Act

1. Repeal is needed

There are problems with the End of Life Choice Act (EOLC Act). It should be repealed and the position go back to what was already allowed before the Act: this meant that suffering could be avoided, without crossing over the line into deliberate killing (euthanasia) or helping people to kill themselves (assisted suicide). (The word 'euthanasia' is sometimes used to refer to both euthanasia and assisted suicide).

2. Vulnerable at Risk

Putting the Act into effect has opened the door to put vulnerable people at risk. For example, some of the wording in the Act is too vague, it protects euthanasia practitioners from criminal and civil liability, and is surrounded by secrecy. (Further Details at: www.euthanasiadebate.org.nz)

3. Confusion over 2020 referendum which put the legislation into effect

Polling has shown that many people who voted Yes in the referendum, did not understand that what they wanted was already legal, e.g. turning off life support, patients making "do not resuscitate orders", declining or stopping medical treatment, giving pain or other symptom relief even if it hastens death as a side effect.

4. Lack of independent witnesses or observers

This lack prevents verifying that the legislated procedure is followed. There is also a cloud of secrecy, with severe penalties that may be imposed on those who let others know of the location or method used to bring about the death. If a person changes their mind, and a doctor or nurse administers the fatal drugs anyway, who is to know? This has occurred overseas, why not in NZ?

5. Lack of protection for those with depression or mental illness

Euthanasia or assisted suicide can be provided under the Act to people with a terminal diagnosis who also suffer from depression or mental illness.

6. Pressures on older and sick people for euthanasia

The abuse of elders is a silent plague in our society. Under such circumstances, how free are elders to choose, when they may feel they are a burden.

7. Lack of Conscience Rights protection

Doctors who have a conscientious objection to processing euthanasia applications are required under the EOLC Act to tell the patient how they can get another doctor. This requirement is a breach of conscience rights and the requirement is regarded as unethical by the World Health Organisation and the World Medical Association.

8. Drive to extend boundaries of what the Act allows

Promoters of euthanasia now want to extend boundaries here. Politician David Seymour has stated that he intends to get it extended in 2024 if he gets into Government. (NZ Herald 7.11.22)

[Euthanasia laws too strict and should be relaxed, Act leader David Seymour says - NZ Herald](#)



"The concept of freedom to choose to die is a lie. People don't ask for a lethal drug cocktail to express their freedom but rather it is a reaction to a social abandonment that has left them feeling that there is no hope, purpose or value to continuing life." (Alex Schadenberg 6.1.23)

For further information, or to offer help, support or comment:

Email euthanasiarepeal.nz@gmail.com or go to 'Euthanasia Repeal' on Facebook.