

EUTHANASIA MUST GO!

1. Repeal is needed

1. Extension underway

The End of Life Choice Amendment Bill, in the name of ACT MP Todd Stephenson, is waiting in the wings. According to an ACT New Zealand Press Release of 25 August 2025, on Scoop, the Bill adopted all 25 recommendations from the Ministry of 'Health' Review.

2. Death without Consent

According to Mr Stephenson, the Bill adds a *'limited waiver of final consent for 'patients who lose capacity after scheduling their assisted death'*. (See S 17B) Sound familiar? If you change your mind and you don't want death after all, or you can't resist or can't speak up or call out, you may be killed anyway. It's happened overseas, and we warned it could happen here. It may already be happening – with no independent witnesses, and with strict secrecy, we don't know. This Amendment Bill would fully legalise it.

Especially troubling is S.17A, re assessment of competency, as the section further restricts a practitioner's discretion in assessing people's ability to make an informed decision..

3. Pressure on Patients

The Amendment Bill opens the way for a doctor or nurse practitioner (referred to as a 'health practitioner') to raise the subject of euthanasia '...as part of discussions about a person's treatment and end of life care options' (Ref S8 referring to S10). Medical discussion can become pressure.

4. Forced to Allow Killing

S.24 of the Amendment Bill requires that euthanasia must be allowed at any hospital, hospice, residential aged care facility, disability residential care facility, nursing home, rest home, respite facility and some other facilities. An exception is if a resident consents to a transfer for euthanasia elsewhere.

5. What should be done?

The law allowing euthanasia, the End of Life Choice Act (EOLC Act). should be repealed and the position go back to what was already allowed before the Act: this meant that suffering could be avoided, without crossing over the line into deliberate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). People can also join with others to be informed and help stop this drive to euthanasia.

Further details overleaf

(Inquire at euthanasiarepeal.nz@gmail.com) for further information)

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The End of Life Choice Act is dangerous, and if extended the situation will be even worse.

The Vulnerable are put 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)

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.

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?

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.

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.

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.

Drive to extend boundaries

The End of Life Choice Amendment Bill is an example of the drive to extend the boundaries. Some years ago an Oxford-based study showed that where euthanasia is legalised, there is a tendency for the number of cases to increase and the boundaries to be widened. The Amendment Bill is an example of the drive to extend the boundaries.



“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, to ask questions or offer help to get the EOLC Act repealed, you can email: euthanasiarepeal.nz@gmail.com or view www.euthanasiadebate.org.nz
