

NEW ZEALAND END OF LIFE CHOICE BILL

The End of Life Choice Bill was introduced to Parliament on 8 June 2017 and passed its first reading on 13 December 2017. It has been referred to the Justice Committee, which will gather information and prepare a report on the bill for the House. The committee received more than 35,000 submissions. It will report back to the House in March 2019.

This bill seeks to establish a legal process that allows the opportunity for people to request medically assisted dying. In order for a person to be eligible to request assisted dying, the bill proposes the person would have to:

- be 18 years or over
- have New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency
- suffer from a terminal illness likely to end their life within six months or have a grievous and irremediable medical condition
- be in an advanced state of irreversible decline in capacity
- experience unbearable suffering that cannot be relieved in a manner that they consider tolerable
- have the ability to understand the nature and consequences of assisted dying

The bill proposes all requests for assisted dying would have to be considered by two medical practitioners, including one independent medical practitioner referred by a Ministry of Health end of life consultation group.

The Justice Committee is currently holding public hearings on the End of Life Choice Bill. Information is available on the [Parliament website](#). Further information about the progress of the End of Life Choice Bill can be found here [Parliament website](#).