

## GOVERNANCE



### GOV028 – End of Life Policy

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#### WHY WE HAVE THIS POLICY (PURPOSE)

The End-of-Life Choice Act was passed into NZ law in 2019 and outlines the legal framework for assisted dying. This policy provides information on Presbyterian Support Otago's (PSO's) position in relation to the Act.

#### WHAT OUR POLICY IS (POLICY STATEMENT)

Presbyterian Support Otago (PSO) is a faith-based organization, whose heritage is one of empathy, caring, and providing life enhancing services.

PSO will respect our clients' choice to exercise their rights under the End of Life Choice Act 2019. However, PSO conscientiously objects and will not participate in, or host, or facilitate the act of assisted dying.

#### WHO DOES THIS POLICY APPLY TO? (WHO DOES THIS COVER?)

All individuals who are cared for by, or who access any PSO services.

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If a client of PSO wishes to take up the options under the Act, PSO employees and/or volunteers will refer and support them to access a person or organisation who can provide the assisted dying service.

Such referrals will be made without judgement and with sensitivity, as we respect an individual's right to choose.

PSO's Enliven care homes will continue to be places where older people can live in a safe, caring environment, and where compassionate, high quality palliative care is available for those who have reached the final stage of life.

## How does the policy work? (policy in detail)

1. PSO will not participate in any assessment, or provide any advice or direction relative to the assisted dying process
2. In doing so PSO will:
  - Provide options for the individual who requests access to an assisted dying service
  - Ensure any support or care is provided to enable access to the assisted dying service by the individual
3. All PSO employees have responsibilities under the policy.

PSO requires all employees to:

- a. Refer any request for an individual to access assisted dying services to the facility manager or delegated clinical person
  - b. Record the request and the actions taken in the individuals on site records
  - c. Provide ongoing care to the individual
  - d. To decline entering discussion in relation to assisted dying
4. This policy will be monitored and reviewed through:
    - a. monthly reports
    - b. internal audits
    - c. Managers day meetings

Administration

### Version Control

PSO has in place a formal process for reviewing and updating policies on a regular basis. Staff are therefore advised to always check the online (intranet) version of the policy for accuracy as printed documents may be out of date.

### Approval details

Policy Number:	GOV028
Category	Governance
Type of Policy:	End of Life
Original Date	April 2023
Effective Date:	Implemented date
Last Revised:	New policy
Next review date	April 2024
Policy Owner:	Governance Committee
Contact Name:	Governance Chair Stephen Christensen

### Document history

The table below provides details of the history of this policy.

Revision Date	Author	Details	Approved	Approved by	Implemented
17/03/2023	CEO	Draft for Governance Committee, formulated from PSO's End of Life Statement	26/04/2023	PSO Board	26/04/2023

### SharePoint metadata

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