

Lakes DHB assisted dying process

Lakes DHB health professionals have been made aware of their professional and legal obligations in relation to the End of Life Choice Act (2019).

They are expected to work within their scope of practice to support a persons right to seek information and engage in an assisted dying pathway using the Ministry of Health support services (SCENZ).

Due to conscientious objection staff can choose not to be involved in an assisted dying service, however staff must not restrict access to the service and are expected to respond respectfully to any requests made of them.

Lakes DHB offers a facility of last resort only.

AMP can contact the DHB via EOLC@lakesdhb.govt.nz for any questions / concerns or to request an Access Agreement document and the corresponding Assisted Dying Procedure. Lakes DHB requires all AMP and ANP to have Access Agreements – a newly signed agreement is required for each event.

The Lakes DHB Access agreement requires the AMP /ANP to be registered on the SCENZ list and to be able to carry out any intervention that is needed to ensure an eligible person is offered all options in the implementation of the assisted dying service.

The Assisted Dying procedure indicates all of the requirements, expectations and levels of support available at Lakes DHB.

DHB staff will only assist at the discretion of the DHB, any assistance will need prior discussion and confirmation as part of the planning phase for each event.

Each event will be managed on an individual basis. The available facility is based on the Rotorua hospital site outside of the acute area. The facility will provide for the attendance of a small number of whanau or friends.

A minimum of 2 weeks' notice is required, and the facility will be available Mon-Fri between 08.00 and 16.00.

The AMP is responsible for ensuring arrangements have been made for the removal of the deceased / tupapaku from the Lakes DHB premises. Arrangements should be agreed prior to the intervention taking place.

Lakes DHB will continue to work with SCENZ and review any policies and procedures as required.