

Euthanasia is an ethical issue because [...]

Two main groups 'for' euthanasia in NZ are [...]

Two main groups 'against' euthanasia are Hospice NZ and Family First. Hospice provides end-of-life care for people who are dying. Hospice values providing high quality care and support to people with terminal illnesses and their families. Hospice care involves not hastening or postponing death. Their philosophy is:

- people who are dying can still live life well
- no one has to die in avoidable pain and suffering
- care is given to whoever needs it, whenever and wherever it is needed
- carers and the bereaved get the help and support they need
- people accept that dying is part of the experience of living (3).

1

Family First has recently launched a new website, protect.org.nz. They believe that:

- Legalising euthanasia would be the start of a slippery slope
- People would be pressured to end their lives as not to be a burden
- People are not in their right mind to make decisions when they are dying
- Like Hospice NZ believes, investment in palliative care is needed (4).

Family First therefore strongly oppose euthanasia and do not see it as being in the best interests of society.

As stated before, euthanasia is illegal in NZ. I will explain implications of this situation at personal, interpersonal and societal levels.

Personally [...]

Interpersonally, the current state of euthanasia in NZ may create some situations where family members are placed under huge pressure to look after patients who are seriously ill or dying. This can place strain on households, especially if money problems are also involved. This could lead to disagreements and tension in relationships and family disagreements, negatively impacting on social well-being. If euthanasia became legal, this could also raise the issue of disagreements between family members/friends about accessing euthanasia, and may create pressure to make use of it, rather than "becoming a burden on others".

2

Societally [...]

Note that a chart was provided by the student to show bibliographic details for the references used in the evaluation.