**New Zealanders’ views on**

**END OF LIFE CHOICES**

* **End stage terminal disease**
* **Irreversible suffering – no immediate death**

**Horizon Research**

**May 2017**

*Prepared for the*

*Voluntary Euthanasia Society of New Zealand Inc.*

**HORIZON RESEARCH - END OF LIFE CHOICES SURVEY**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A private member's bill which allows medical practitioners to assist people to die in certain circumstances, is awaiting debate in Parliament.

This survey finds New Zealanders support medical practitioners assisting adults to die by majorities ranging from 66% to 75% in specified circumstances.

These include:

* Where such a request has come from a mentally competent patient, 18 years or over, who has end stage terminal disease (e.g. cancer) and irreversible unbearable suffering: **75% support**
* Where such a request has come from a mentally competent patient, 18 years and over, who has irreversible unbearable suffering which may not cause death in the immediate future (e.g. motor neurone disease or some other degenerative or irreversible condition): **66% support**

**Support rises since 2012:**

Support for medically assisted death appears to have risen since Horizon surveyed adult New Zealanders on the issue in July 2012.

At that time **63% said they would support** a law change, proposed in private member’s bill then awaiting debate, which would have entitled all mentally competent adults in New Zealand to receive medical assistance in ending their life if they are suffering from a terminal illness or an irreversible physical or mental medical condition that in their view renders their life unbearable.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Support by party vote:**

In the current survey support was higher than average among those who voted for the National, Labour, Green and ACT parties: up to as many as 80 in 100 of those who voted for them at the 2014 general election supported some of the proposed changes canvassed in this research.

**Support by age:**

Support for each option is higher among those aged 35 or over compared with 18-34 year-olds.

Those aged 65-74 most support allowing mentally competent adults suffering end stage terminal disease to have medical assistance to die (82%). Support is also high among those aged 35-44 years (78%) and 45-54 years (74%) and is lowest among those aged under 25 years (66%).

**Support by ethnicity:**

By ethnicity, strongest support for change generally comes from those who identify as European/Pakeha and Indian and is lower among Pacific Islanders, Asians and Maori, though more support than oppose law changes among each ethnic group.

**Support by qualification:**

Majority support for law change occurs across all groups analysed by education level.

However, it generally peaks among those with vocational qualifications and trade certificates or lower qualifications such as NCEA Level 1/School Certificate and is lower among those with post graduate (Masters or PhD) degrees.

**Sample and timing:**

The survey was conducted among 1,274 adults between May 16 and 23, 2017. All respondents were aged 18 years or over and results were weighted to represent the New Zealand adult population at the most recent census. At a 95% confidence level, the maximum margin of error on the overall sample is +/- 2.7%.

Tables of results analysed by age, gender, party vote 2014, educational qualifications and income are appended for each of the four questions asked in this survey.

**REPORT**

1. **End stage terminal disease**

Among the four scenarios for medically assisted death covered by this survey, assistance for those suffering end-stage terminal illness was highest at 74.9% overall.

* 46% strongly supported a law change
* 30% supported
* 8% were neutral
* 3% opposed and
* 8% strongly opposed
* Not sure 6%[[2]](#footnote-2)

The proposed law change has significant support among people who voted in 2014 for the parties currently in Parliament.

Strongest support for this change comes from voters for National (83%) and Labour (82%).

Significantly, only 6% of Labour voters and 10% of National voters would oppose.

77% of Green Party voters support change, 6% oppose.

69% of New Zealand First voters support change, 20% oppose.

The following table shows the number of voters for each party who would support this law change, based on votes each party received at the 2014 general election:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Total votes cast in the 2014 general election** | **2,416,479** |  |  |
|  | **Party votes received 2014\*** | **% support law change** | **No. voters supporting change** |
| National Party | 1,131,501 | 83% | 936,883 |
| Labour Party | 604,535 | 82% | 493,905 |
| Green Party | 257,359 | 77% | 197,394 |
| New Zealand First Party | 208,300 | 69% | 143,935 |
| Maori Party | 31,849 | 66% | 21,084 |
| ACT New Zealand | 16,689 | 71% | 11,849 |
| United Future | 5,286 | 58% | 3,045 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL - parties in parliament** | **2,255,519** | **80%** | **1,808,095** |
|  |  |  |  |
| *\* Source: www.electionresults.govt.nz* |  |  |  |

Overall, **2,396,021** of all New Zealanders aged 18+ would support the change, while **361,482** would oppose.

**Results by age:**

There is majority support for a law change across all age groups.

Lowest support comes from those under 25 years (66%) while 11% oppose.

Highest support (82%) is from 65-74 year-olds and 35-44 year-olds (78%), while 11% and 8% respectively oppose.

Among those aged 74+, 67% support change, 18% oppose. Among respondents of this age 15% were neutral while none said they were not sure.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Do you support a law change to allow medical practitioners to assist people to die, where such a request has come from a mentally competent patient, 18 years or over, who has end stage terminal disease and irreversible unbearable suffering , e.g.: cancer? | ALL | SEX | | AGE GROUP | | | | | | |
| Male | Female | Under 25 years | 25-34 years | 35-44 years | 45-54 years | 55-64 years | 65-74 years | 75 years or over |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strongly support | 46% | 41% | 49% | 32% | 49% | 55% | 47% | 43% | 43% | 44% |
| Support | 29% | 31% | 28% | 33% | 26% | 24% | 28% | 33% | 39% | 23% |
| Neither support nor oppose | 8% | 10% | 7% | 9% | 6% | 8% | 11% | 7% | 6% | 15% |
| Oppose | 3% | 4% | 3% | 4% | 3% | 3% | 2% | 4% | 3% | 14% |
| Strongly oppose | 8% | 10% | 6% | 7% | 12% | 6% | 7% | 9% | 8% | 4% |
| I'm not sure | 6% | 4% | 7% | 14% | 4% | 6% | 6% | 5% | 2% | 0% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Support | 75% | 72% | 77% | 66% | 75% | 78% | 74% | 76% | 82% | 67% |
| Total Oppose | 11% | 14% | 9% | 11% | 15% | 8% | 9% | 13% | 11% | 18% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| N (unweighted) | 1,272 | 534 | 738 | 74 | 197 | 217 | 262 | 266 | 186 | 69 |

**Qualifications:**

Support is stronger among those with vocational qualifications or lower and is slightly lower than average for those with post graduate degrees. However, support strongly outweighs opposition across all groups.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Do you support a law change to allow medical practitioners to assist people to die, where such a request has come from a mentally competent patient, 18 years or over, who has end stage terminal disease and irreversible unbearable suffering , e.g.: cancer? | ALL | HIGHEST QUALIFICATION | | | | | | | |
| Postgraduate degree | Undergraduate (Bachelor) degree | Vocational qualification | University Bursary or 7th form | Sixth form/UE/NCEA Level 2 | NCEA Level 1 or School Certificate | No formal school qualification | Prefer not to say |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strongly support | 46% | 44% | 45% | 52% | 42% | 45% | 49% | 41% | 41% |
| Support | 29% | 22% | 28% | 24% | 37% | 26% | 27% | 37% | 43% |
| Neither support nor oppose | 8% | 6% | 8% | 9% | 7% | 12% | 8% | 5% | 6% |
| Oppose | 3% | 9% | 7% | 2% | 5% | 3% | 1% | 3% | 2% |
| Strongly oppose | 8% | 15% | 11% | 11% | 8% | 7% | 4% | 13% | 1% |
| I'm not sure | 6% | 5% | 2% | 3% | 2% | 7% | 12% | 2% | 7% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Support | 75% | 66% | 72% | 76% | 79% | 71% | 76% | 77% | 84% |
| Total Oppose | 11% | 23% | 18% | 13% | 13% | 10% | 5% | 17% | 4% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| N (unweighted) | 1,272 | 135 | 314 | 324 | 75 | 129 | 118 | 92 | 33 |

1. **Irreversible suffering – no immediate death**

Overall, support is also strong for a law change to allow medically assisted death where a request has come from a mentally competent adult patient who has irreversible unbearable suffering which may not cause death in the immediate future (like motor neuron disease).

In these cases overall support is 66**%**. Opposition is **14%**, the equivalent to around **2,095,318** adults in support and **454,252** opposed.

Slightly more women (68%) support this than men (63%).

By age group, strongest support is from those aged 35-44 (73%) and 65-74 years (76%).

Lowest support is among those aged under 25 years (50%) and 75+ (52%).

Those 75+ also had the highest level of opposition (22%). 5% were strongly opposed.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Do you support a law change to allow medical practitioners to assist people to die, where such a request has come from a mentally competent patient, 18 years and over, who has irreversible unbearable suffering which may not cause death in the immediate future e.g.: motor neurone disease or some other degenerative or irreversible condition? | ALL | SEX | | AGE GROUP | | | | | | |
| Male | Female | Under 25 years | 25-34 years | 35-44 years | 45-54 years | 55-64 years | 65-74 years | 75 years or over |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strongly support | 33% | 32% | 33% | 19% | 29% | 44% | 35% | 33% | 32% | 33% |
| Support | 33% | 31% | 35% | 31% | 34% | 29% | 32% | 34% | 44% | 20% |
| Neither support nor oppose | 15% | 18% | 12% | 23% | 15% | 9% | 14% | 14% | 11% | 25% |
| Oppose | 6% | 5% | 6% | 5% | 5% | 7% | 4% | 5% | 3% | 16% |
| Strongly oppose | 9% | 10% | 7% | 8% | 12% | 6% | 9% | 11% | 8% | 5% |
| I'm not sure | 5% | 4% | 7% | 14% | 5% | 5% | 5% | 4% | 2% | 0% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Support | 66% | 63% | 68% | 50% | 63% | 73% | 68% | 67% | 76% | 52% |
| Total Oppose | 14% | 15% | 13% | 13% | 17% | 13% | 13% | 16% | 11% | 22% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| N | 1,254 | 528 | 726 | 74 | 195 | 214 | 258 | 264 | 182 | 66 |

**APPENDIX 1**

**Methodology**

*Respondents:* The 1,247 interviews were of people aged 18+ who are members of Horizon Research’s *HorizonPoll* panel, which represents the New Zealand adult population at the 2013 census. Questions were part of an omnibus survey also covering other issues.

*Survey timing:* Interviews were conducted between May 16 and 23, 2017.

*Weighting:* Results have been weighted by age, gender, personal income, educational qualification, ethnicity and party vote 2014 to ensure a representative sample of the New Zealand adult (18+) population.

*Margin of error:* The maximum margin of error at a 95% confidence level is +/- 2.7%.

All qualitative and verbatim results are available through Horizon’s online results analysis and reporting system.

**CONTACT**

For further information regarding this survey please contact

Graeme Colman, Principal, Horizon Research Ltd

E-mail: [gcolman@horizonresearch.co.nz](mailto:gcolman@horizonresearch.co.nz)

Telephone: +64 21 84 85 76

Or

Grant McInman, Manager, Horizon Research Ltd

E-mail: [gmcinman@horizonresearch.co.nz](mailto:gmcinman@horizonresearch.co.nz)

Telephone: +64 21 076 2040

**APPENDIX 2 – RESULTS TABLES**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Q1** |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | |  | |  | |  | |  |
| Do you support a law change to allow medical practitioners to assist people to die, where such a request has come from a mentally competent patient, 18 years or over, who has end stage terminal disease and irreversible unbearable suffering , e.g.: cancer? | ALL | SEX | | | AGE GROUP | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | Female | | Under 25 years | | 25-34 years | | 35-44 years | | 45-54 years | 55-64 years | | 65-74 years | | 75 years or over | |
|  |  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  | |
| Strongly support | 46% | 41% | 49% | | 32% | | 49% | | 55% | | 47% | 43% | | 43% | | 44% | |
| Support | 29% | 31% | 28% | | 33% | | 26% | | 24% | | 28% | 33% | | 39% | | 23% | |
| Neither support nor oppose | 8% | 10% | 7% | | 9% | | 6% | | 8% | | 11% | 7% | | 6% | | 15% | |
| Oppose | 3% | 4% | 3% | | 4% | | 3% | | 3% | | 2% | 4% | | 3% | | 14% | |
| Strongly oppose | 8% | 10% | 6% | | 7% | | 12% | | 6% | | 7% | 9% | | 8% | | 4% | |
| I'm not sure | 6% | 4% | 7% | | 14% | | 4% | | 6% | | 6% | 5% | | 2% | | 0% | |
|  |  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  | |
|  |  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  | |
| Total Support | 75% | 72% | 77% | | 66% | | 75% | | 78% | | 74% | 76% | | 82% | | 67% | |
| Total Oppose | 11% | 14% | 9% | | 11% | | 15% | | 8% | | 9% | 13% | | 11% | | 18% | |
|  |  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  | |
| N (unweighted) | 1,272 | 534 | 738 | | 74 | | 197 | | 217 | | 262 | 266 | | 186 | | 69 | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Do you support a law change to allow medical practitioners to assist people to die, where such a request has come from a mentally competent patient, 18 years or over, who has end stage terminal disease and irreversible unbearable suffering , e.g.: cancer? | ALL | HOUSEHOLD INCOME | | | | | | | | |
| Less than $20,000 per year | Between $20,001 and $30,000 per year | Between $30,001 and $50,000 per year | Between $50,001 and $70,000 per year | Between $70,001 and $100,000 per year | Between $100,001 and $150,000 per year | Between $150,001 and $200,000 per year | More than $200,000 per year | Don't know/ prefer not to say |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strongly support | 46% | 40% | 55% | 39% | 52% | 43% | 41% | 41% | 44% | 49% |
| Support | 29% | 23% | 24% | 34% | 29% | 35% | 34% | 45% | 12% | 25% |
| Neither support nor oppose | 8% | 11% | 9% | 7% | 13% | 9% | 6% | 2% | 5% | 5% |
| Oppose | 3% | 5% | 5% | 2% | 4% | 1% | 6% | 1% | 5% | 3% |
| Strongly oppose | 8% | 14% | 7% | 11% | 2% | 8% | 10% | 8% | 0% | 6% |
| I'm not sure | 6% | 8% | 1% | 7% | 1% | 4% | 4% | 3% | 35% | 14% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Support | 75% | 63% | 79% | 74% | 81% | 78% | 74% | 86% | 56% | 73% |
| Total Oppose | 11% | 19% | 12% | 13% | 6% | 9% | 16% | 8% | 5% | 8% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| N (unweighted) | 1,272 | 83 | 129 | 203 | 175 | 214 | 178 | 65 | 27 | 188 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Do you support a law change to allow medical practitioners to assist people to die, where such a request has come from a mentally competent patient, 18 years or over, who has end stage terminal disease and irreversible unbearable suffering , e.g.: cancer? | ALL | PERSONAL INCOME | | | | | | | | |
| Less than $20,000 per year | Between $20,001 and $30,000 per year | Between $30,001 and $50,000 per year | Between $50,001 and $70,000 per year | Between $70,001 and $100,000 per year | Between $100,001 and $150,000 per year | Between $150,001 and $200,000 per year | More than $200,000 per year | Don't know/ prefer not to say |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strongly support | 46% | 44% | 50% | 47% | 41% | 47% | 59% | 85% | 28% | 40% |
| Support | 29% | 23% | 34% | 36% | 36% | 36% | 21% | 4% | 40% | 31% |
| Neither support nor oppose | 8% | 11% | 6% | 8% | 4% | 12% | 1% | 6% | 15% | 7% |
| Oppose | 3% | 3% | 5% | 3% | 5% | 3% | 5% | 0% | 0% | 3% |
| Strongly oppose | 8% | 12% | 4% | 5% | 6% | 2% | 14% | 0% | 0% | 9% |
| I'm not sure | 6% | 8% | 2% | 3% | 8% | 1% | 0% | 5% | 17% | 10% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Support | 75% | 67% | 84% | 82% | 76% | 82% | 80% | 89% | 68% | 71% |
| Total Oppose | 11% | 15% | 9% | 7% | 11% | 5% | 19% | 0% | 0% | 12% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| N (unweighted) | 1,272 | 248 | 174 | 249 | 187 | 148 | 70 | 17 | 6 | 164 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Do you support a law change to allow medical practitioners to assist people to die, where such a request has come from a mentally competent patient, 18 years or over, who has end stage terminal disease and irreversible unbearable suffering , e.g.: cancer? | ALL | ETHNICITY | | | | | |
| Asian | Indian | Maori | NZ European/Pakeha | Other European | Pacific Islands |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strongly support | 46% | 22% | 44% | 45% | 49% | 45% | 17% |
| Support | 29% | 27% | 20% | 26% | 30% | 41% | 46% |
| Neither support nor oppose | 8% | 15% | 9% | 13% | 6% | 6% | 4% |
| Oppose | 3% | 5% | 0% | 5% | 3% | 1% | 5% |
| Strongly oppose | 8% | 9% | 26% | 5% | 8% | 4% | 13% |
| I'm not sure | 6% | 23% | 2% | 7% | 5% | 3% | 16% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Support | 75% | 48% | 63% | 71% | 78% | 86% | 63% |
| Total Oppose | 11% | 14% | 26% | 10% | 11% | 6% | 17% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| N (unweighted) | 1,272 | 34 | 15 | 293 | 903 | 100 | 46 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Do you support a law change to allow medical practitioners to assist people to die, where such a request has come from a mentally competent patient, 18 years or over, who has end stage terminal disease and irreversible unbearable suffering , e.g.: cancer? | ALL | HIGHEST QUALIFICATION | | | | | | | |
| Postgraduate degree (Masters' degree or PhD) | Undergraduate (Bachelor) degree | Vocational qualification (includes trade certificates, diplomas etc.) | University Bursary or 7th form | Sixth form/UE/NCEA Level 2 | NCEA Level 1 or School Certificate | No formal school qualification | Prefer not to say |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strongly support | 46% | 44% | 45% | 52% | 42% | 45% | 49% | 41% | 41% |
| Support | 29% | 22% | 28% | 24% | 37% | 26% | 27% | 37% | 43% |
| Neither support nor oppose | 8% | 6% | 8% | 9% | 7% | 12% | 8% | 5% | 6% |
| Oppose | 3% | 9% | 7% | 2% | 5% | 3% | 1% | 3% | 2% |
| Strongly oppose | 8% | 15% | 11% | 11% | 8% | 7% | 4% | 13% | 1% |
| I'm not sure | 6% | 5% | 2% | 3% | 2% | 7% | 12% | 2% | 7% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Support | 75% | 66% | 72% | 76% | 79% | 71% | 76% | 77% | 84% |
| Total Oppose | 11% | 23% | 18% | 13% | 13% | 10% | 5% | 17% | 4% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| N (unweighted) | 1,272 | 135 | 314 | 324 | 75 | 129 | 118 | 92 | 33 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Do you support a law change to allow medical practitioners to assist people to die, where such a request has come from a mentally competent patient, 18 years or over, who has end stage terminal disease and irreversible unbearable suffering , e.g.: cancer? | ALL | PARTY VOTE 2014 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ACT New Zealand | Conservative Party | Green Party | Internet-MANA Party | Labour Party | Maori Party | National Party | New Zealand First Party | United Future | Other party | Chose not to vote | Was not eligible to vote | Don't know or can't remember |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strongly support | 46% | 66% | 26% | 49% | 59% | 48% | 26% | 51% | 43% | 11% | 76% | 47% | 22% | 41% |
| Support | 29% | 5% | 24% | 28% | 4% | 34% | 40% | 32% | 26% | 47% | 12% | 24% | 31% | 23% |
| Neither support nor oppose | 8% | 0% | 5% | 15% | 29% | 8% | 5% | 5% | 9% | 10% | 0% | 8% | 28% | 5% |
| Oppose | 3% | 0% | 20% | 1% | 0% | 2% | 16% | 4% | 5% | 0% | 3% | 3% | 3% | 1% |
| Strongly oppose | 8% | 8% | 16% | 5% | 9% | 5% | 8% | 6% | 14% | 32% | 9% | 15% | 7% | 5% |
| I'm not sure | 6% | 21% | 9% | 2% | 0% | 4% | 4% | 2% | 3% | 0% | 0% | 3% | 9% | 25% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Support | 75% | 71% | 50% | 77% | 63% | 82% | 66% | 83% | 69% | 58% | 88% | 71% | 53% | 63% |
| Total Oppose | 11% | 8% | 36% | 6% | 9% | 6% | 24% | 10% | 20% | 32% | 12% | 18% | 10% | 6% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| N (unweighted) | 1,272 | 10 | 33 | 185 | 19 | 329 | 61 | 377 | 111 | 8 | 11 | 46 | 18 | 56 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Q2** |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | |  | |  | |
| Do you support a law change to allow medical practitioners to assist people to die, where such a request has come from a mentally competent patient, 18 years and over, who has irreversible unbearable suffering which may not cause death in the immediate future e.g.: motor neurone disease or some other degenerative or irreversible condition? | ALL | SEX | | | AGE GROUP | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | Female | | Under 25 years | | 25-34 years | | 35-44 years | | 45-54 years | 55-64 years | | 65-74 years | | 75 years or over | |
|  |  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  | |
| Strongly support | 33% | 32% | 33% | | 19% | | 29% | | 44% | | 35% | 33% | | 32% | | 33% | |
| Support | 33% | 31% | 35% | | 31% | | 34% | | 29% | | 32% | 34% | | 44% | | 20% | |
| Neither support nor oppose | 15% | 18% | 12% | | 23% | | 15% | | 9% | | 14% | 14% | | 11% | | 25% | |
| Oppose | 6% | 5% | 6% | | 5% | | 5% | | 7% | | 4% | 5% | | 3% | | 16% | |
| Strongly oppose | 9% | 10% | 7% | | 8% | | 12% | | 6% | | 9% | 11% | | 8% | | 5% | |
| I'm not sure | 5% | 4% | 7% | | 14% | | 5% | | 5% | | 5% | 4% | | 2% | | 0% | |
|  |  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  | |
|  |  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  | |
| Total Support | 66% | 63% | 68% | | 50% | | 63% | | 73% | | 68% | 67% | | 76% | | 52% | |
| Total Oppose | 14% | 15% | 13% | | 13% | | 17% | | 13% | | 13% | 16% | | 11% | | 22% | |
|  |  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  | |
| N | 1,254 | 528 | 726 | | 74 | | 195 | | 214 | | 258 | 264 | | 182 | | 66 | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Do you support a law change to allow medical practitioners to assist people to die, where such a request has come from a mentally competent patient, 18 years and over, who has irreversible unbearable suffering which may not cause death in the immediate future e.g.: motor neurone disease or some other degenerative or irreversible condition? | ALL | HOUSEHOLD INCOME | | | | | | | | |
| Less than $20,000 per year | Between $20,001 and $30,000 per year | Between $30,001 and $50,000 per year | Between $50,001 and $70,000 per year | Between $70,001 and $100,000 per year | Between $100,001 and $150,000 per year | Between $150,001 and $200,000 per year | More than $200,000 per year | Don't know/ prefer not to say |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strongly support | 33% | 33% | 38% | 26% | 40% | 30% | 29% | 33% | 32% | 34% |
| Support | 33% | 12% | 36% | 38% | 33% | 39% | 38% | 45% | 20% | 30% |
| Neither support nor oppose | 15% | 23% | 15% | 10% | 20% | 19% | 12% | 7% | 5% | 10% |
| Oppose | 6% | 9% | 3% | 8% | 4% | 3% | 8% | 3% | 4% | 5% |
| Strongly oppose | 9% | 17% | 8% | 9% | 3% | 7% | 11% | 8% | 37% | 7% |
| I'm not sure | 5% | 5% | 1% | 9% | 1% | 1% | 4% | 4% | 2% | 14% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Support | 66% | 46% | 74% | 64% | 73% | 69% | 66% | 78% | 52% | 64% |
| Total Oppose | 14% | 26% | 10% | 17% | 6% | 11% | 18% | 11% | 40% | 12% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| N (unweighted) | 1,254 | 81 | 126 | 201 | 174 | 210 | 178 | 64 | 26 | 184 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ` | ALL | PERSONAL INCOME | | | | | | | | |
| Less than $20,000 per year | Between $20,001 and $30,000 per year | Between $30,001 and $50,000 per year | Between $50,001 and $70,000 per year | Between $70,001 and $100,000 per year | Between $100,001 and $150,000 per year | Between $150,001 and $200,000 per year | More than $200,000 per year | Don't know/ prefer not to say |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strongly support | 33% | 32% | 31% | 35% | 32% | 37% | 48% | 68% | 28% | 24% |
| Support | 33% | 25% | 45% | 38% | 34% | 42% | 27% | 18% | 40% | 31% |
| Neither support nor oppose | 15% | 18% | 14% | 12% | 13% | 12% | 2% | 9% | 15% | 16% |
| Oppose | 6% | 5% | 4% | 8% | 6% | 4% | 9% | 0% | 0% | 5% |
| Strongly oppose | 9% | 13% | 4% | 4% | 9% | 4% | 15% | 0% | 0% | 10% |
| I'm not sure | 5% | 6% | 2% | 3% | 6% | 2% | 1% | 5% | 17% | 14% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Support | 66% | 57% | 76% | 73% | 66% | 79% | 75% | 86% | 68% | 55% |
| Total Oppose | 14% | 18% | 8% | 12% | 14% | 7% | 23% | 0% | 0% | 15% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| N (unweighted) | 1,254 | 245 | 169 | 247 | 186 | 145 | 70 | 17 | 6 | 160 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Do you support a law change to allow medical practitioners to assist people to die, where such a request has come from a mentally competent patient, 18 years and over, who has irreversible unbearable suffering which may not cause death in the immediate future e.g.: motor neurone disease or some other degenerative or irreversible condition? | ALL | ETHNICITY | | | | | |
| Asian | Indian | Maori | NZ European/Pakeha | Other European | Pacific Islands |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strongly support | 33% | 8% | 13% | 34% | 34% | 37% | 8% |
| Support | 33% | 24% | 2% | 28% | 36% | 24% | 41% |
| Neither support nor oppose | 15% | 29% | 52% | 19% | 11% | 20% | 11% |
| Oppose | 6% | 7% | 6% | 8% | 5% | 11% | 7% |
| Strongly oppose | 9% | 9% | 27% | 5% | 9% | 6% | 13% |
| I'm not sure | 5% | 23% | 0% | 6% | 5% | 2% | 19% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Support | 66% | 32% | 15% | 62% | 70% | 61% | 50% |
| Total Oppose | 14% | 17% | 33% | 13% | 14% | 17% | 20% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| N (unweighted) | 1,254 | 34 | 14 | 290 | 894 | 98 | 43 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Do you support a law change to allow medical practitioners to assist people to die, where such a request has come from a mentally competent patient, 18 years and over, who has irreversible unbearable suffering which may not cause death in the immediate future e.g.: motor neurone disease or some other degenerative or irreversible condition? | ALL | HIGHEST QUALIFICATION | | | | | | | |
| Postgraduate degree (Masters' degree or PhD) | Undergraduate (Bachelor) degree | Vocational qualification (includes trade certificates, diplomas etc.) | University Bursary or 7th form | Sixth form/UE/NCEA Level 2 | NCEA Level 1 or School Certificate | No formal school qualification | Prefer not to say |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strongly support | 33% | 31% | 34% | 41% | 26% | 32% | 34% | 29% | 30% |
| Support | 33% | 26% | 29% | 25% | 41% | 34% | 28% | 44% | 40% |
| Neither support nor oppose | 15% | 11% | 13% | 17% | 12% | 17% | 18% | 10% | 10% |
| Oppose | 6% | 7% | 9% | 6% | 9% | 4% | 5% | 2% | 9% |
| Strongly oppose | 9% | 17% | 13% | 9% | 9% | 7% | 4% | 15% | 3% |
| I'm not sure | 5% | 7% | 3% | 2% | 5% | 6% | 11% | 1% | 9% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Support | 66% | 57% | 63% | 65% | 66% | 66% | 63% | 73% | 70% |
| Total Oppose | 14% | 24% | 21% | 15% | 18% | 11% | 9% | 17% | 12% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| N (unweighted) | 1,254 | 135 | 311 | 320 | 74 | 126 | 115 | 92 | 30 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Do you support a law change to allow medical practitioners to assist people to die, where such a request has come from a mentally competent patient, 18 years and over, who has irreversible unbearable suffering which may not cause death in the immediate future e.g.: motor neurone disease or some other degenerative or irreversible condition? | ALL | PARTY VOTE 2014 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ACT New Zealand | Conservative Party | Green Party | Internet-MANA Party | Labour Party | Maori Party | National Party | New Zealand First Party | United Future | Other party | Chose not to vote | Was not eligible to vote | Don't know or can't remember |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strongly support | 33% | 59% | 0% | 41% | 59% | 38% | 22% | 37% | 33% | 5% | 34% | 33% | 6% | 26% |
| Support | 33% | 3% | 31% | 30% | 4% | 33% | 22% | 35% | 30% | 49% | 42% | 31% | 40% | 34% |
| Neither support nor oppose | 15% | 2% | 24% | 16% | 29% | 17% | 27% | 13% | 9% | 15% | 0% | 10% | 39% | 8% |
| Oppose | 6% | 7% | 18% | 3% | 0% | 2% | 14% | 5% | 5% | 0% | 12% | 10% | 3% | 7% |
| Strongly oppose | 9% | 8% | 18% | 6% | 9% | 6% | 10% | 7% | 16% | 32% | 12% | 14% | 7% | 5% |
| I'm not sure | 5% | 21% | 9% | 4% | 0% | 5% | 5% | 2% | 7% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 6% | 20% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Support | 66% | 62% | 31% | 71% | 63% | 70% | 44% | 72% | 63% | 53% | 76% | 64% | 46% | 59% |
| Total Oppose | 14% | 15% | 36% | 9% | 9% | 8% | 25% | 12% | 20% | 32% | 24% | 25% | 10% | 12% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| N (unweighted) | 1,254 | 10 | 33 | 184 | 19 | 322 | 60 | 372 | 109 | 8 | 11 | 45 | 18 | 55 |

1. Horizon Research End of Life Choices Survey of 2,969 adult New Zealanders between July 5 and 20, 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Note percentages in this report are rounded and may not add to 100% in all instances. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)