PATIENTS' SEEKING ASSISTED DYING AND WHĀNAU PERSPECTIVES

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Whangarei @ **O** Auckland Ohope Te Awamutu O Rotorua Gisborne New Plymouth North Island 🚘 27 h Waikanae O O Greytown Nelson O O Christchurch

14 PARTICIPANTS

- Eight females, six males
- I2 NZ European, two Māori
- Aged 34-82
- Advanced cancers; motor neurone disease; end-stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; a rare auto-immune disease and cancer
- Seven enrolled in Hospice
- Variety of educational and professional backgrounds
- Four some spiritual/religious beliefs
- Six family members

PRIMARY
CONCERN
WAS
QUALITY OF
LIVING /
DYING

- Louis:* all you're doing is buying time [with chemotherapy]. And how much pain and agony do you want to go through is going to be your call, as to when you say enough is enough. Yeah, but it comes down to quality of life. There have been days in the last three to four months where I've thought no, this is not living. Well it's living but it's not living.
- *Pseudonyms

CHOICE OF ASSISTED DYING = CONTROL

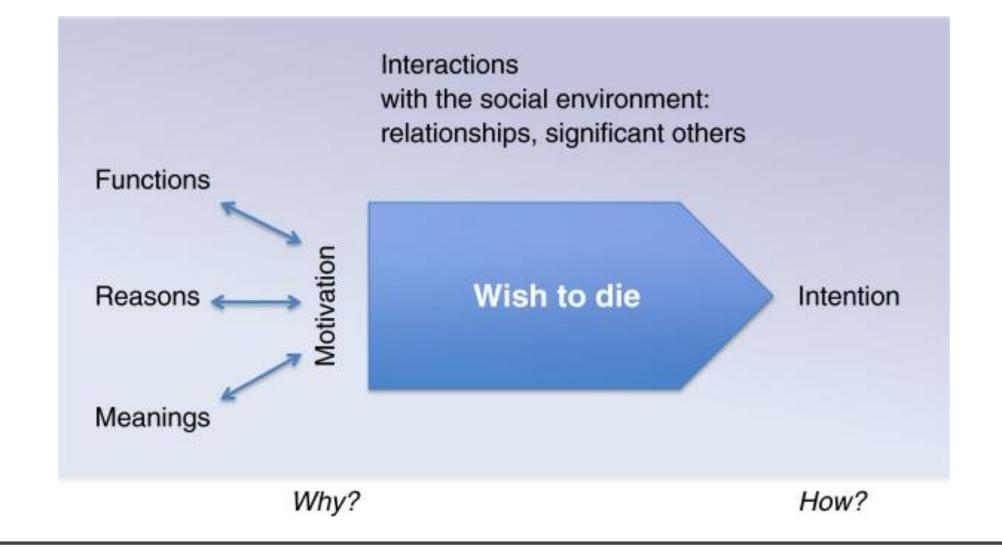
Diana: Yeah, it is a degree of control, because you don't, when you get a disease like this [cancer], you lose all control of your life... even if you've got the option of assisted dying, if you don't actually do it, you still have the option. You still feel like you have some control over what's the right thing, and if the right time came up, then you could? It's a possibility that you could choose that, or you could choose not to. Having a choice is a very empowering thing.

OPTION OF
LAST
RESORT IF
DYING
BADLY

• Dee: [Hospice] are bloody good, but they're not, they don't have a magic wand... Unbearable suffering is intense pain that takes over. When your whole being, the only focus of your whole being is on the pain... What can we do to change it? Okay, well let's give those things, and if that doesn't work, then [assisted dying] is my option. It's really cut and dried for me... I just do absolutely believe that I would know when the time is right... But I would need the agreement of the people around me... It's not something you would do lightly.

ASSISTED DYING
OFFERS
CERTAINTY OVER
DYING

DEATH IS THE ONLY CERTAINTY IN LIFE



A WISH TO DIE: ITS MOTIVATION, INTENTION AND THE CONSTITUTIVE SOCIAL INTERACTIONS (OHNSORGE ET AL, 2014)

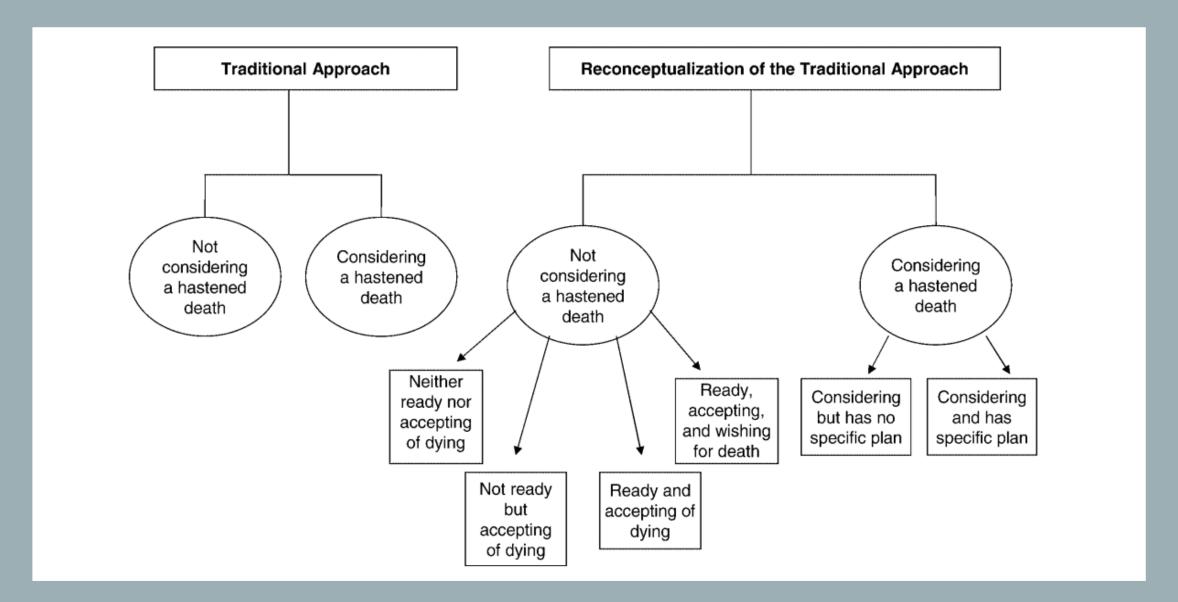
A desire to live but not in this way (Monforte-Royo et al, 2012)

It may be an expression of unmet need (Mak & Elwyn, 2005) Re-establish autonomy and regain control (Coyle & Sculo, 2004)

Coping strategy for anticipated agony (Pestinger et al., 2015)

To end suffering or a life with no perceived value, to end waiting for death to arrive (Ohnsorge et al, 2014)

Expressing a WTHD not necessarily a literal request. BUT for some the WTHD is enduring and they will act on it.



MIND FRAMES TOWARDS DYING (SCHROEPFER 2006)



Artist: Jon Han

PARTICIPANTS WANTED THE OPTION TO CONTROL SUFFERING & DYING (BADLY)

Please contact Jessica.young@vuw.ac.nz

Seeking Research Participants

Navigating Assisted Dying

WE ARE SEEKING PEOPLE WITH TERMINAL CANCER WHO ARE THINKING ABOUT CHOOSING ASSISTED DYING, NOW IT IS LEGALLY AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE WHO MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.







What are the supportive needs of people with life-limiting cancer and their loved ones?

WE ARE SEEKING PEOPLE WITH
LIFE-LIMITING CANCER WHO HAVE
NOT INCLUDED HOSPICE SERVICES
IN THEIR CARE TO SHARE THEIR
EXPERIENCES AS PART OF A STUDY.

