



9 April 2019

End of Life Choice Bill should be withdrawn immediately

Peter Thirkell, Secretary of the Care Alliance, has welcomed the Justice Select Committee's statement that the End of Life Choice Bill "is not workable in its present state".

"Mr Seymour should withdraw his bill immediately. It is simply not feasible for MPs to try to 'fix' the bill during the Committee of the Whole House stage, as that would deny New Zealanders their right to have a say on different proposals."

"This is simply too serious an issue for ad hoc amendments to be made on the floor of the house with no expert or wider consultation. There are just far too many problems that need further discussion."

"We are opposed to euthanasia in any form, but we are particularly worried about the unintended consequences of rushed ill-considered law in an area as fraught as this."

Dr Thirkell added that "If Mr Seymour won't do the right thing, then Parliament should recognise that this Bill is simply not fit for purpose, and resoundingly defeat it at Second Reading."

ENDS

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