

NZ Bill of Rights 1990

- Right to refuse life saving treatment
- Consent must be gained for any invasive procedure
- Advance care plans outlining choices should they become incompetent are legally enforceable
- Underpinned by the principle of self determination – we are allowed to make our own medical decisions throughout our life



Tensions between....

- Individual autonomy (self determination and free will)
 - Beneficence (to do only good)
 - Non-malificence (to do no harm)
- Which is the over riding principle?



“Physician assisted suicide/physician assisted death”

- Disregards others involved in the care of the patient
- Patients decisions regarding their end of life care impact on others Physicians decisions impact on those involved in caring
- Nurses are the biggest health professional group involved in palliative and end of life care

Euthanasia is illegal....



But then what?



Thinking outside the box (also thinking out of the box or thinking beyond the box) is a metaphor that means to think differently, unconventionally, or from a new perspective.



Nurses Code of conduct

- Respect the dignity and individuality of health consumers
- Listen to health consumers, ask for and respect their views about their health
- Practise in a way that respects difference and does not discriminate against those in your care on the basis of opinion
- You have a right not to be involved in care to which you object on the grounds of conscience
- Practise in a way that respects each health consumer's identity and right to hold personal beliefs, values and goals.



Patient Code of Rights

- To be treated fairly without pressure or discrimination
- The right to dignity and independence
- To make your own decisions about your care



Principles of palliative care

- Respect for individual
- Loss of personal control increases as death nears
- Choice is an expression of personal control
- Supporting choice and achieving preferences at the end of life are intrinsically linked to the delivery of quality palliative care

"...autonomy is a key human right and maintaining this must be a core ethical value for society and health services." (WHO 2004)

An individual debate.....

- Should we judge those who choose what we ourselves would not choose at the end of life?
- How do we provide care that is not supported by our profession but is legal?
- How do we support our colleagues who choose not to provide care?
- Are we certain we would not choose the same thing if we were in their position?

A social debate.....

