

## PROLIFE FACTS

At the New Zealand Forum on the Family held in Auckland in July, the Prime Minister stated that he would support a Private Member's Bill on euthanasia being referred to a Select Committee for consideration. In considering euthanasia it is important to recognise that euthanasia is about doctors killing their patients or assisting in their suicide. Euthanasia may be voluntary, involuntary or compulsory. If voluntarily administered by oneself, it is a form of suicide. If administered by another in an involuntary or compulsory way, it is a form of murder. The American statesman, Thomas Jefferson stated that the care of human life and happiness and not their destruction, is the first and only legitimate objective of good government. Euthanasia is a threat to the elderly and the ill. In Holland in 2009, 2636 patients were put to death by their doctor. In addition there were 400 deaths where the doctor assisted in the death of the patient and 550 deaths where the doctor killed the patient without explicit consent or request. The Prime Minister should be aware that we have excellent palliative care for the terminally ill in this country and that the New Zealand Medical Association is totally opposed to legislation that would allow doctors to kill their patients or assist in their suicide.

*For more info about this issue, contact Right to Life (03)385 6111 or [righttolifenz@gmail.com](mailto:righttolifenz@gmail.com)*

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Quarter page  
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