

Analyzing MAiD from an Equity Perspective

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The Organization

Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services (**Access Alliance**)

- **Mission:** to provide services for vulnerable immigrants, refugees, and their communities
- Access Alliance addresses health inequalities within these populations to improve their health outcomes



My Role at Access Alliance

- Worked in the Department of Language Services and Digital Strategy
- My supervisor was the Director of the department
- **My role:** to research and analyze policies regarding Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) and bring to light any barriers to access faced by immigrants and refugees
- Developed a methodology as I conducted research on my own and checked in periodically with my supervisor
- Wrote a **research report** on my findings
- Conducted an **email experiment**
- Wrote an **executive summary**

Significant Projects I Worked On



MAiD Research Report

- Conducted a review on equitable access towards MAiD
- **Supervisor's prior intentions:** research interpreter biases, but this data did not exist
- Shifted my focus to the outreach done by provincial and territorial governments as well as regulatory bodies such as physicians, nurses' and social workers' colleges.
- Wrote a report with background information, methodology, results, conclusion and recommendations
- Courses that helped me with this report are:
 - **Health Law (HLST 4000):** provided background information on MAiD
 - **Health Care Ethics (HLST 4010):** provided critical thinking skills to acknowledge inequities in our system



Email Experiment

- Conducted an email experiment
 - Emailed provincial and territorial health authorities and requested MAiD information in Tagalog (a top 10 language)
- This experiment was conducted to determine how quickly and efficiently health authorities were able to accommodate language and literacy barriers.



- Courses that helped me with this experiment are:
- **Applied Research Approaches in Health Studies (HLST 4200):** as it taught me how to design experiments

Importance of My Work

Importance to the Organization

- My research report illustrated a stronger need for equity for those whose first language is not English; majority of immigrants and refugees fall under this category

Importance to the Community

- My research and report advocated for those who are not fluent in English and need greater support
- For the entire health system, **it will ensure that barriers are removed**, and all Canadians can access MAiD without running into language communication issues



My Reflection

- Developed written communication skills through emails and writing my report
- Developed confidence when conducting research
- Enhanced my research and writing skills while working with the MAiD legislation

A Message to my Former Self

- Do not be afraid to make mistakes as that is the only way you can progress! Your research changed course many times but that's just how it works!

Recommendations for Future Students

- Share your ideas! The past four years have taught you to think critically and you will be an asset to your team!
- Put yourself as out-there as you can (It is a bit hard virtually) but try to **reach out to as many people as possible** as your network is very important!