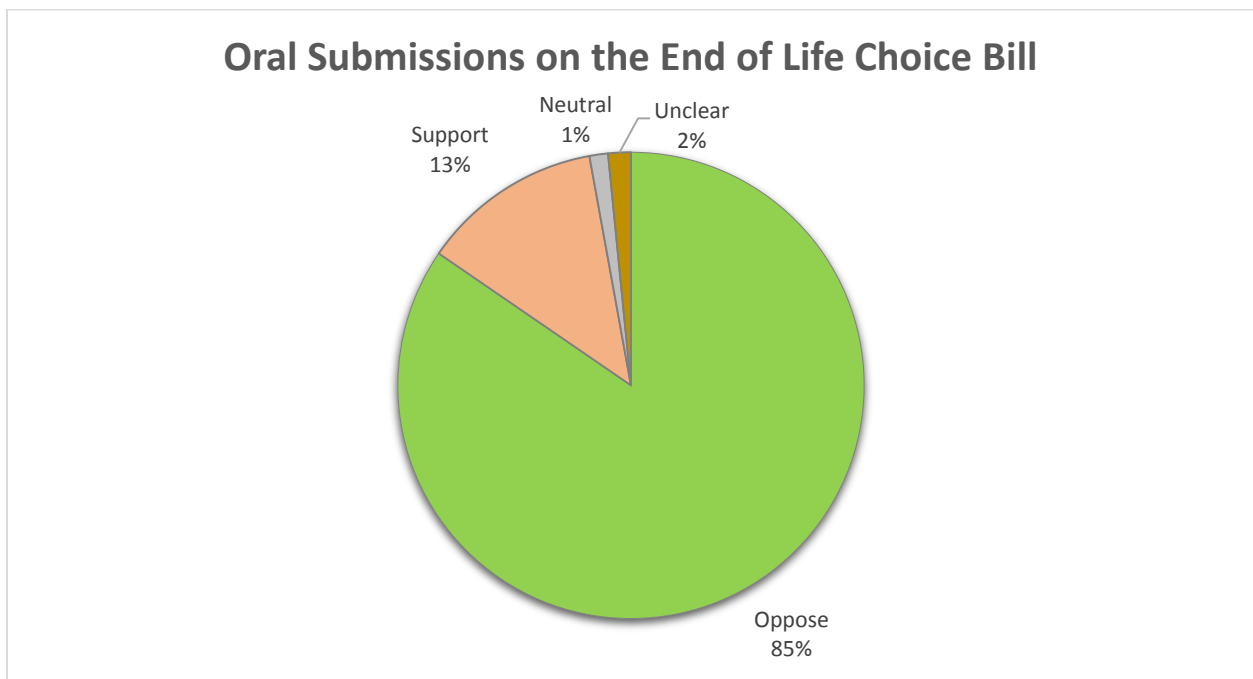


Oral Submissions are Overwhelmingly Opposed and Areligious

About 85 % of published oral submissions are opposed to the End of Life Choice Bill, an analysis found. Only 13 % were in support and 3 % were either unclear or neutral.

The submissions of 50 organisations were published, of which 35 were opposed, 3 were in support, 6 were decidedly neutral and 6 were unclear. Of the 12 medical organisations that spoke to Parliament’s Justice Committee, 8 were opposed and 4 were neutral. About 84 % of submissions by doctors and 87 % of submissions by nurses are opposed to the Bill.



Supporters of [Euthanasia-Free NZ](#) listened to all 700 submissions published on the [Facebook page of Parliament’s Justice Committee](#) (as at 31 March 2019) and recorded each submitter’s stated position on the Bill, their stated occupation and their use of religious references.

The analysis is in response to claims on social media that “most” or “all” oral submissions by opponents were religious-based – claims that Euthanasia-Free NZ found alarming and worth investigating.

About 79 % of published submissions made no reference to religious arguments. After removing 7 incomplete recordings from the analysis, supporters and opponents were found to be equally likely to use at least some religious arguments. Opponents were slightly more likely than supporters to identify themselves as religious while not using any religious arguments in their submissions, but three times as likely as supporters to base their submissions on religion.

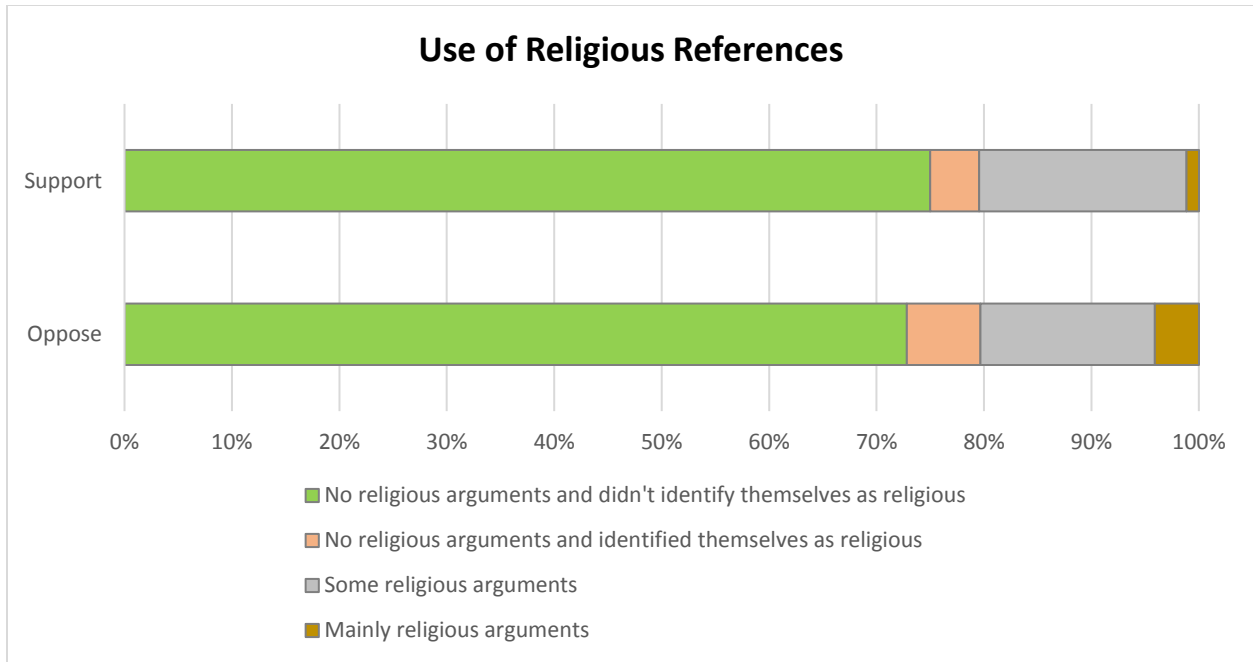


Table 1: Use of Religious References

	No religious arguments	Some religious arguments	Mainly based on religion	No religious references but recording is incomplete	Total
Oppose	466 (66.6 %)	95 (13.6 %)	24 (3.4 %)	7 (1.0 %)	592 (84.6 %)
Support	70 (10.0 %)	17 (2.4 %)	1 (0.1 %)	0	88 (12.6 %)
Neutral	9 (1.3 %)	0	0	0	9 (1.3 %)
Unclear	9 (1.3 %)	1 (0.1 %)	0	1 (0.1 %)	11 (1.6 %)
Total	554 (79.1 %)*	113 (16.1 %)	25 (3.6 %)*	8 (1.1 %)	700 (100 %)*

	Used no religious arguments	Identified themselves as religious	Did not identify themselves as religious
Oppose	466 (84.1 %)	40 (7.2 %)	426 (76.9 %)
Support	70 (12.6 %)	4 (0.7 %)	66 (11.9 %)
Neutral	9 (1.6 %)	1 (0.2 %)	8 (1.4 %)
Unclear	9 (1.6 %)	1 (0.2 %)	8 (1.4 %)
Total	554 (100 %)*	46 (8.3 %)	509 (91.9%)*

* Percentages do not add up due to rounding.

Table 2: Breakdown of Oral Submissions

View	Individuals	Organisations	Total
Oppose	557 (79.6 %)	35 (5.0 %)	592 (84.6 %)
Support	85 (12.1 %)	3 (0.4 %)	88 (12.6 %)
Neutral	3 (0.4 %)	6 (0.9 %)	9 (1.2 %)
Unclear	5 (0.7 %)	6 (0.9 %)	11 (1.6 %)
Total	650 (92.9 %)*	50 (7.1 %)*	700 (100 %)*

* Percentages do not add up due to rounding.

Table 3: Views of Organisations by Field

	Total	Oppose	Support	Neutral	Unclear
Medicine	10	7		3	
Nursing	2	1		1	
Disability	3	2			1
Religion [#]	18	17		1	
Other	17	8	3	1	5
Total	50	35	3	6	6

[#] Based on the name of the organisation and the content of their oral submission. Includes Christian Medical Fellowship which is also listed as a medical organisation.

Table 4: Views of Individuals who Stated their Occupation or Background

	Total	Oppose	Support	Neutral	Unclear
Doctors	61	51 (84 %)	8		2
Medical students	5	5 (100 %)			
Nurses	46	40 (87 %)	6		
Nursing students	2	2 (100 %)			
Mental health workers	14	11 (79 %) [^]	2		1
Other healthcare workers	39	35 (90 %)	4		
Disability workers	6	6 (100 %)			
Lawyers	16	13 (81 %)	3		
Educators	23	22 (96 %)	1		
Religious leaders	27	24 (89 %)	2		1
Other	61	51 (84 %)	10		

[^] Including two psychiatrists and two mental health nurses also listed as doctors and nurses respectively.

This report was prepared by Renée Joubert, Executive Officer of Euthanasia-Free NZ on 31 March 2019.