

Who we are

Go Gentle Australia, founded by Andrew Denton, is an expert advisory and health promotion charity for a better conversation around death, dying and end of life choices. Our campaigning efforts in Victoria in 2017 provided critical assistance to those in the Victorian parliament who fought for and ultimately succeeded in the historic passing of Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation.

In Western Australia, we are supporting a campaign to see parliament pass a Voluntary Assisted Dying law similar to Victoria's.

Please help us to be heard

As we get closer to a vote in WA, a small but loud minority with deep pockets who don't want change will make a lot of noise. It's important we don't let them drown out the views of the majority who want this law. This has happened over 30 times before.

We can do a lot with a little. Please donate whatever you can to the WA campaign so YOUR opinions can be heard.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

To donate online:

Visit: gogentleaustralia.org.au

Google: Go Gentle Australia

Phone: 0468 464 360

Thank you for your support.

If you have a question please contact:

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**IF YOU WANT
A CHOICE,
ADD YOUR VOICE**

TELL YOUR MPs YOU WANT THEM TO SUPPORT
THE VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING BILL.

**FOR THOSE OF US WHO WANT TO DIE
WITH DIGNITY AT A TIME AND PLACE OF
OUR CHOOSING, I URGE ALL OUR ELECTED
REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT THE
PROPOSED NEW LAWS.**

Howard Sattler,
Radio personality



THE WA VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING BILL

The WA Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation has been written by Western Australians for Western Australians. It will be voted on in Parliament, most likely by the end of the year. Each politician will have a ‘conscience’ vote – meaning they can vote ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ based on what they individually feel is best or right.

Your only opportunity to have a say is with your local Members of Parliament before the vote. If you want your voice heard, you need to speak to them soon.

What is the VAD law?

The objective of the new Voluntary Assisted Dying law is to offer relief from suffering to competent adults who are in the last weeks and months of an incurable physical illness, such as cancer. To be eligible for VAD you must:

1. **have a terminal and incurable condition**
2. **be experiencing deep and intolerable suffering**
3. **be beyond even the help of palliative care.**

You will have to request doctors to act. Two doctors will have to agree that you have a terminal illness that will end your life within six months (or 12 months in the case of a neurodegenerative illness such as Motor Neurone Disease). They will prescribe you a lethal drink which you can choose to take – or not. Under the proposed law, you will also have the option to request your doctor to administer the medication.

There are three basic principles:

1. **your request must be voluntary and repeated**
2. **you must be an adult with decision-making capacity**
3. **you must be diagnosed with a terminal illness.**

WHO SUPPORTS THIS LAW?

The vast majority of Western Australians

Opinion polls over the last decade show consistent support for this law at **over 80%**, including **about 75%** support from Catholics and Anglicans.

Doctors

GPs, The Royal Australasian College of Physicians, and the Australian Medical Students’ Association all either support Voluntary Assisted Dying or have adopted a neutral stance. An Australian Medical Association survey in 2016 found that 51.6% of their members agreed assisted dying “can have a legitimate role in modern medical care”.

Nurses

Nurses, our primary caregivers and those who deal most closely with the suffering of dying patients, officially support a law. A survey by the Nurses Federation found that 80% of respondents believed their patients should have access to assisted dying.

HAVE YOUR SAY

POLITICIANS WILL SOON VOTE ON A LAW FOR ASSISTED DYING.

Our politicians will be the ones who decide whether or not to give us control over the way we die. If our politicians vote ‘Yes’ for the new laws we can get medication that will assist us to die as we choose and not face extreme suffering.

If our politicians vote ‘No’, nothing will change. We will have to hope a doctor will ‘help’ us in our final days – by breaking the law. We won’t have a choice of when we die or how we die.

Who wants to stop this law?

Opponents are mainly conservative faith-based groups. They have been effective in blocking more than 30 previous attempts to pass this law around Australia.

How can you be heard?

A hand written letter is very powerful. Please write to your upper house members of parliament (MLCs). This vote will be won or lost in the upper house, so we need to focus our attention there. You can find out who your local upper house MPs are (you have several) by using our online MP look-up tool at: gogentleaustralia.org.au/mp

A phone call or email is also effective. Your MPs’ phone numbers and email addresses are found on the back of this pamphlet. For tips on what to say to your MP, see our fact sheet on Having Your Voice Heard at: gogentleaustralia.org.au/seniors_facts

Sign our petition

At gogentleaustralia.org.au/wa_petition you can download and print as many petition forms as you need.

You can also phone us on **0468 464 360** and we can post one out to you.

Get your friends and family to sign too!

Strength in numbers

With others organise an appointment to go and see your MPs. Take the bus! Electoral office locations are on the back of this pamphlet. You should be respectfully seen - you are all local constituents.

Publicity

If you do any of the above, why not consider letting your local paper know?