

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

FAST FACTS

- Fact #1** Voluntary Assisted Dying is widely supported by Australians – averaging 80% or more in the most recent polls
- Fact #2** Two Australian states have passed Voluntary Assisted Dying laws – Victoria (2017) and Western Australia (2019). The law came into effect in Victoria in mid-2019 and will be implemented in WA by mid-2021.
- Fact #3** Only adults with decision-making capacity in the end stages of a terminal illness, and who are suffering intolerably, are eligible for Voluntary Assisted Dying.
- Fact #4** Voluntary Assisted Dying is voluntary for everyone: the patient and medical professionals. No-one can be obliged, compelled or coerced to take part.
- Fact #5** The person seeking assisted dying must make the request repeatedly. They must maintain the ability to make their own decisions throughout the process, including when it comes time to administer the lethal dose. This is a key safeguard in the legislation.
- Fact #6** A request for Voluntary Assisted Dying cannot be made in an advance care directive.
- Fact #7** In Australia, Voluntary Assisted Dying takes the form of a drink that is legally prescribed and voluntarily swallowed by the dying person.
- Fact #8** Globally, more than 200 million people now have access to assisted dying laws in jurisdictions in Europe, Canada, and 9 US states or districts.