

Talking About Assisted Dying



Conversation Toolkit

Victoria, WA, Tasmania and SA already have compassionate voluntary assisted dying laws. Now it's Queensland's turn.

In a matter of weeks, a Voluntary Assisted Dying bill (VAD) will be debated by Queensland's Parliament for the first time. A majority of MPs must vote in favour of the bill for VAD to become law.

In this debate, each MP gets a conscience vote. This means they are free to make up their own minds on the issue, rather than 'towing the party line'.

80% of Queenslanders support VAD laws. But it's not enough to support VAD ourselves. We have to make sure our MPs do the same on our behalf.

That's why the single most important thing you can do to make VAD legal in Queensland is to contact your local MP.

Right now, VAD supporters like you, from Cairns to Coolangatta, are contacting their MPs. They're also encouraging their friends and family to do the same; in workplaces, community events, down at the sports club and at church.

Your local MP *wants* to hear from you. As your representative, your opinions matter to them.

A cynic might say this is because you decide if they

are re-elected. But our experience tells us otherwise; most MPs are genuine, diligent and take their electoral responsibilities seriously.

For many MPs, this is the most profound issue they will consider in their political careers – and they do not take this responsibility lightly. They want to get it right.

Our research shows the best way to win the hearts and minds of MPs is by talking with them about VAD and sharing our personal experiences. It can get emotional, but that's nothing to be afraid of.

Just like us, MPs have strong views on this topic and many will have their own personal connections to the issue. As always, approach conversations with sensitivity, care and respect.

This guide will prepare you for having conversations about VAD that are persuasive, effective and meaningful. This is how we will change the law in Queensland.

For more information, including Andrew Denton's webinar on how to engage your MP, visit:

www.gogentleaustralia.org.au/qld



Voluntary Assisted Dying

Queensland, it's time.

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