

End of Life Choice



Non-beneficial treatment and care at the end of life

Non-beneficial or 'futile', 'inappropriate', or 'disproportionate' treatment (or care) refers to a range of treatment at the end of life based on a culture of 'doing everything possible', even against a person's express wishes.

- A study published in 2016 found that doctors consistently initiated excessive medical or surgical treatment on elderly patients in the last six months of life. For example:
 - Up to 50% had blood tests and imaging even with 'not for resuscitation' orders
 - 33% received antibiotics, cardiovascular, digestive or endocrine medicines
 - 33 had chemotherapy in the last six weeks of life
 - 30% had dialysis, radiotherapy, transfusions and other life support in their last day
 - 25% had CPR even with 'not for resuscitation' orders, and
 - 10% were admitted to intensive care.
- Therefore many elderly Australians are probably receiving invasive and potentially harmful medical treatments when they will die regardless of treatment.
- The process of legalising voluntary assisted dying allows for a much broader community discussion about end of life care and for developing more informed policy and practice. It facilitates an environment in which older Australians are more likely to achieve a comfortable death at home free from non-beneficial treatments.

Reference:

- M Cardona-Morrell, JCH Kim, RM Turner, M Anstey, IA Mitchell, K Hillman, Non beneficial treatments in hospital at the end of life: a systematic review on extent of the problem, *International Journal for quality in health care* DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/ro.ro93/intqhc/mzwo6o> First published online: 27 June 2016

*Compassion for suffering
The freedom to choose
Add your voice to the call*

SAVES was established in 1983 to campaign for legal, medically assisted voluntary euthanasia. The aim is to end suffering by providing choice in dying. SAVES works in the community and with Members of Parliament to achieve law reform.

SAVE-YA Syndicated Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Youth Advocates

Facebook: Support SAVE-YA Law Reform

A national youth lobby group which aims to provide a youth voice in support of legalising voluntary euthanasia in all States and Territories. Members between ages 18 and 35 are encouraged to join, make contact with their local MP and inform them of their support for voluntary euthanasia law reform.



Christians Supporting Choice For Voluntary Assisted Dying

christiansforvad.org.au

We are Christians who believe that, as a demonstration of love and compassion, those with a terminal or hopeless illness should have the option of a pain-free, peaceful and dignified death with legal voluntary assisted dying / voluntary euthanasia. This is strongly supported by the majority of Australian Christians.



South Australian Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying

facebook: SA Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying

We are a group of passionate nurses who believe in our patient's right to choose the end of life care they wish. The group provides a forum for the nursing voice and perspective on legalising voluntary euthanasia and other patient choices in end of life care.



MY BODY MY Choice-VE

facebook.com/pages/MY-BODY-MY-Choice-VE

MBMC provides a voice for people with disability in the VE reform debate. MBMC represents the interests of people with disabilities who wish to exercise choice in all aspects of their life, including choice at the end of life, with the view that choice and control are a fundamental human right for everyone.

MBMC argues that people with disabilities know how it feels to lose personal autonomy through their ongoing fight for self-determination, independent living and disability rights.

MBMC believes that people with disabilities, who have struggled to control their own lives and bodies, must be allowed to maintain control and autonomy throughout their life, especially at its end.



Doctors for Assisted Dying Choice

drs4assisteddyingchoice.org



We are a national organisation of Australian medical practitioners, both current and retired, who are committed to having a legal choice of providing information and assistance to rational adults, who, for reasons of no realistic chance of cure or relief from intolerable symptoms, would like to gently end their lives.

Assistance may be by doctor provision of medication for the patient to consume, or by doctor-administration.

Respecting rational patient end-of-life choices

Lawyers for Death with Dignity

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/1062e1_dd077d6dd79648c8baec58200361f054a.pdf

Lawyers for Death with Dignity acknowledges the need for people with profound suffering to have the legal choice for a medically assisted and dignified death.

The current law says suicide is not illegal, but assisting suicide is. People in a terminal state may have profound, unbearable suffering and be in the undignified position of being unable to end their life without assistance.

Advances in medicine have improved life expectancy, but South Australian law has not changed to reflect the often forgotten deterioration in quality of life that a longer life expectancy may bring.



Paramedics Supporting Choices in Dying

facebook: Paramedics Supporting Choices in Dying



Paramedics Supporting Choices in Dying is an advocacy group promoting the rights of people to make decisions regarding their end of life wishes.

To go without pain, without trauma, without breaking the law, without endangering others and without suffering. To go gently, peacefully and with dignity.

We support good palliative care, encourage the use of Advance Care Directives and advocate for law reform to legalise the choice for voluntary euthanasia and voluntary assisted dying.