



End of Life Choice

Voluntary Assisted Dying – the Facts

83% support amongst South Australians for voluntary assisted dying (Roy Morgan 2017).

Palliative care is unable to alleviate pain and suffering in 5-10% of people at the end of life.

75% of Christians support compassion at the end of life and legal voluntary assisted dying.

Men over 85 have the highest suicide rate in Australia. The SA Police and Coroner estimate that every month in SA, two people with a terminal illness end their life violently, through suicide. They are found by family and friends. SA Police told the SA Parliamentary Inquiry that they support voluntary assisted dying law reform.

The strict safeguards, close monitoring and multiple reviews of voluntary assisted dying legislation around the world continues to confirm the safety of voluntary assisted dying legislation.

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation supports voluntary assisted dying. Their position statement emphasises the need for enhanced palliative care services, but when the person's suffering is still unbearable, 'a competent adult shall have the right to choose to die at a time and in a manner acceptable to them and shall not be compelled to suffer beyond their wishes'.

<http://www.roymorgan.com/findings/7373-large-majority-of-australians-in-favour-of-euthanasia>
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VADSA was established in 1983 to campaign for legal voluntary assisted dying. The aim is to provide people who are suffering at the end of their life with the choice of a medically assisted death. VADSA works in the community and with Members of Parliament to achieve law reform.

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 choice in their end of life care treatment. The group provides a forum for the nursing voice and perspective on legalising voluntary assisted dying and other patient choices in end of life care.

Voluntary Assisted Dying Youth Advocates

[vadsa.org.au/about/VADpartners](#)

A national youth lobby group which aims to provide a youth voice in support of legalising voluntary assisted dying 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 legal voluntary assisted dying.

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. This is strongly supported by the majority of Australian Christians.

Accessible Voluntary Assisted Dying (AVAD)

[facebook: Accessible Voluntary Assisted Dying](#)

Accessible Voluntary Assisted Dying is a community of people supporting more equitable access to palliative care services and the choice of a medically assisted death when palliative care cannot relieve suffering at the end of life. Through our facebook page, AVAD encourages people isolated by a disability, or social and physical isolation, to exchange views and lobby for equitable access to legal Voluntary Assisted Dying.

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 Voluntary Assisted Dying

[vadsa.org.au/about/VADpartners](#)

Lawyers for Voluntary Assisted Dying acknowledge the need for people with profound suffering at the end of life to have the legal choice of a medically assisted death. People diagnosed with a terminal illness may have profound and unbearable suffering which is unable to be relieved by even the best of palliative care. We support the provision of a legal choice for people with profound suffering to seek medical assistance to end that suffering.

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 assisted dying.