

# End of Life Choice



## The benefits of voluntary assisted dying for palliative care

*The Tasmanian Independent Review of the End of Life Choices (Voluntary Assisted Dying) Bill 2020 findings highlighted the beneficial outcomes for palliative care from legal voluntary assisted dying (VAD):*

- Jurisdictions with both established palliative care systems and VAD regimes which have been operational for more than 10 years include several USA states, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.
- In 2018 Palliative Care Australia (PCA) commissioned a study on the impact of VAD on the palliative care sector internationally.
- This study found that rather than legalised VAD having a negative effect on PCA services, there had been 'an increased focus on, and public policy attention towards, end-of-life care'.
- This greater focus on end-of-life care includes doctors seeking to improve their knowledge and understanding of end-of-life care support services, and provision of additional funding.
- For example, with the introduction of VAD in Canada, the Federal Government committed \$6 billion in funding over 10 years for home and palliative care, a significant increase from previous funding. Furthermore, VAD legislation in Canada requires ongoing review of both VAD provisions and the state of palliative care services to ensure that both options are accessible and well resourced.

*Palliative care and VAD are complementary, not contested, forms of end of life care.*

### Reference

University of Tasmania: Report of the Independent Review of the End of Life Choices (Voluntary Assisted Dying) Bill 2020; February 2021; page 82 [https://www.utas.edu.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/1432677/VAD-Review-report\\_final.pdf](https://www.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1432677/VAD-Review-report_final.pdf)



**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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.