

End of Life Choice



Candidates supporting Voluntary Assisted Dying in recent elections polled strongly

Victoria 2018

In 2017, Liberal and Nationals members voted overwhelmingly against the Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) bill. At the election the following year, Liberals suffered an average 6.04% swing against them (most of this going to Labor). While there were multiple reasons for the election result, attitudes toward VAD was one of them.

The election was won by Dan Andrews' Labor government, claiming 55 of the 88 Lower House seats.

No Labor Members of Parliament who supported the legislation lost their seats.

Andrew Denton robo-called four marginal electorates to inform voters in those electorates where their candidates stood on this issue. In all four seats, the Liberal candidate was opposed to VAD.

In these four seats, there was an average loss of primary votes to the Liberal candidates of 10.1% compared with the average loss in the Liberal vote overall of 6.04%.

Western Australia 2021

In Western Australia, where Mark McGowan followed Victoria's lead and introduced a VAD law in 2019, the government was returned in one of the largest political landslides in Australia's history.

The Liberal Party was left with just two members in the Lower House and seven in the Upper House after a 10% state-wide swing against it.

The scale of the Liberal defeat cannot be solely attributed to the pandemic (Opposition parties in other states have not suffered such large swings).

WA Liberal leader at the time of the VAD debate, Lisa Harvey (who had opposed the bill) lost her previously safe seat, as did vocal opponents Alyssa Hayden, Tony Krsticevic and Sean L'Estrange.

Two of the VAD law's staunchest critics -- Upper House Liberal powerbrokers Nick Goiran and Peter Collier -- also came into sharp focus.

Mr Collier was replaced as the party's leader in the Upper House. Tjorn Sibma, an outspoken advocate for VAD, was elevated to deputy-leader.

Queensland 2020

Voluntary assisted dying was made a campaign issue in the 2020 Queensland election when the Palaszczuk government pledged to make VAD legislation a priority if re-elected.

At the election, the government was returned for a third term, with four additional seats and a swing to it of 4.2%.

Tasmania 2021

The Gutwein Government remains well on track to achieve its desired majority. Gutwein, his deputy Jeremy Rockliff and Health Minister Sarah Courtney were all high-profile supporters of the VAD Bill introduced to parliament by Independent MLC Mike Gaffney.

Mike Gaffney was re-elected to his seat unopposed.

Full article: https://www.gogentleaustralia.org.au/electoral_ramification_supporting_vad



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.