

End of Life Choice



High level Catholic support for voluntary assisted dying

- The 2019 ABC *Vote Compass* data revealed that 77 per cent of Catholics support voluntary assisted dying (VAD).
- Also in 2019, *The Australian Election Study* (AES) data on Catholic voters' attitudes to VAD showed 74 per cent support. Only 15 per cent were opposed, with 11 per cent undecided.
- The 2016 AES study found almost identical rates.
- These statistics are consistent with a 2012 *Newspoll* which found that nearly 3 out of 4 Catholics supported VAD.
- Almost twenty years ago, a 2002 *Newspoll* found 69 per cent Catholic support.
- Other jurisdictions with predominantly Catholic populations, including Spain and Belgium have passed VAD laws with less stringent criteria than in the South Australian Bill.
- Jane Qualmann, a self-proclaimed proud Christian woman, a devoted mother, and former Sister of St Joseph nun is an advocate for law reform in South Australia. The Mt Gambier woman is living with terminal neurogenetic bowel syndrome and is facing extreme suffering. She argues:

“God never wanted me to suffer...In no way can I ever see a God who loves us, has nurtured us and has got us this far want us to die a horrible death”.

References:

- Vote Compass responses are weighted by gender, age, education and place of residence to match the Australian population, creating a nationally representative sample.
- The Australian Election Study (AES), a collaborative project based at the Australian National University, is the leading study of political attitudes and behaviour in Australia.
- Newspoll is an Australian opinion polling brand, published by The Australian and administered by international market research and data analytics group, YouGov.
- Sixty eight per cent of Spanish people identify as Catholic (Centre for Sociological Research 2019), and 58 per cent of Belgians (World Atlas, 2018).
- Mustillo, R 'Ex nun asks for right to die' *The Borderwatch* (5/3/2021) available at : <https://borderwatch.com.au/news/2021/03/05/ex-nun-asks-for-right-to-die/>



**Voluntary
Assisted
Dying
South
Australia**

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.