

Death with Dignity Bill 2016

Key points

- Criteria of
 1. An adult who is mentally competent
 2. Diagnosed by two independent doctors with a terminal medical condition
 3. Their death is inevitable due to the terminal medical condition
 4. Suffering of the person has become intolerable to them and there is no reasonably available medical treatment or palliative care option that could relieve their suffering
 5. The person has lived in South Australia for at least 12 months.
- The Bill specifically excludes disability, age and mental health as a criteria for voluntary euthanasia
- Terminal medical condition defined as a medical condition which is incurable. The person will have reached a stage where their suffering is untreatable.
- Two independent witnesses will need to certify that the request has been made voluntarily by the person with the terminal medical condition and that they meet all the eligibility criteria.
- If any of the doctors or witnesses suspect that there is any pressure on the person to make the request for voluntary euthanasia, the request cannot proceed.
- If any of the doctors suspect that the person making the request “is not of sound mind” then a psychiatric report will be required.
- The DWD Bill allows self administration as well as assistance with administration.