

4. Community information and consumer guidelines development

Project summary

What is the project?

This project will develop clear and accurate consumer and community information about end of life care options, including voluntary assisted dying, for the Victorian community.

What is the project goal?

To develop accurate and appropriate information about end of life care options, including voluntary assisted dying, for consumers and the Victorian community.

Why is it important?

A key implementation issue is how people in the community access accurate and reliable information and guidance about voluntary assisted dying.

It is crucial that the information developed is accurate and available for people when they request information; information will not be proactively provided, but made available to people when requested.

For individual consumers this may include information about whether they would meet the eligibility criteria and what to expect about the assessment process if they choose to request voluntary assisted dying. Information about voluntary assisted dying should be integrated into existing information about end of life care more broadly to ensure people are aware of the range of options available to them.

While a person's medical practitioner will act as a critical source of information in discussions with the person, there is also value in having an independent source of information available. Information should be provided in ways that make it easier for a range of people to understand.

Community and health consumer access to good-quality, reliable information about voluntary assisted dying is critical to ensuring people are able to make informed decisions about their end of life.

How will the project achieve its goal?

This project will identify where people are likely seek information about voluntary assisted dying and develop the necessary resources to support community organisations to provide high-quality consumer-oriented information in a variety of formats to people in the Victorian community.

The Taskforce will hold consultations with key consumer organisations to determine best practice for the dissemination of information about voluntary assisted dying and ensure that it is accessible to the community.

Consideration will need to be given to ensuring that community information and consumer guidelines remain up-to-date into the future.

How will the project be organised?

The Taskforce will form a project working group to consult with the community, key consumer organisations and health practitioners to develop community and consumer information and oversee the project deliverables.

Who are the main stakeholders?

The community, consumers, the Health Issues Centre, Council on the Ageing (COTA), Victorian Disability Advisory Council, Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, and health practitioners.

What are the project outcomes?

- Credible and accurate information about voluntary assisted dying is developed for the community and individuals who may be considering accessing voluntary assisted dying.
- Dissemination strategy developed that ensures the information is accessible to the Victorian community.
- Community information and consumer guidelines are available prior to the commencement of the Act.
- A review process to ensure information and guidelines remain up-to-date is in place.