

Voluntary Assisted Dying



Easy English

Hard Words

This survey has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

- the word is in **blue**
- we will write what the hard word means.

About this booklet



This booklet is about **voluntary assisted dying**.

This means a person asks for help to end their life.



The person has a sickness that

- will **not** stop



- makes them feel a lot of pain.

Voluntary means that no one can

- make you end your life
- ask to end your life for you.



In this booklet the word **we** means a government group.

What the group did

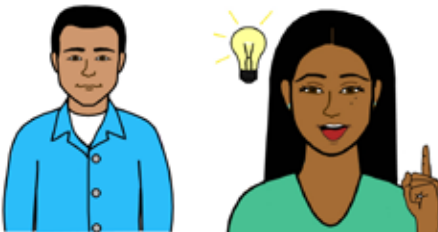


We talked about how to care for people who are sick and will die.



We also talked about laws to help people to use voluntary assisted dying.

We talked to



- **experts** - people who know a lot about sickness and dying



- people in the community.



We talked about research from around the world.

We gave ideas for laws about voluntary assisted dying to the government.



The government said **yes** to most of our ideas.

The government said Victoria should have voluntary assisted dying.

Our ideas

To use voluntary assisted dying a person **must**



- be over 18 years old



- make their own choice



- have a sickness that will **not** stop



- have a sickness that makes them feel a lot of pain

- be in the last weeks or months of their life.

The person **must** do 3 things for a doctor to help them to use voluntary assisted dying.



1. The person **must** ask their doctor.

2. The person **must** ask on a written form.
2 other people **must** sign the form.

3. The person **must** ask their doctor again.



A doctor will only say **yes** if the person



- has talked to 2 different doctors



- has all of the facts needed to make a choice



- is **serious** about the choice. Serious means they will **not** change their mind.



A doctor can say **no** and **not** help someone to use voluntary assisted dying if they



- have a mental illness only



- are under 18 years old



- are **not** in the last weeks or months of their life



- have a sickness that **will** stop



- are **not** feeling a lot of pain



- can **not** make their own choice.

What happens next?



The government has a new group of experts.

The new group will look at our ideas.

The group will make sure



- the law is clear about who can use voluntary assisted dying



- doctors can choose if they want to help a person to use voluntary assisted dying

- the law works with the health care system.



The group will give a report to the government.



There might be a law about voluntary assisted dying in Victoria in the future.



More information

For more information



Call 1300 650 172

TTY users

13 36 77 then ask for 1300 650 172

Speak and listen users

1300 555 727 then ask for 1300 650 172



Go to the website

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/>

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Scope's Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre

wrote the Easy English. February 2017 www.scopeaust.org.au

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