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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