

1. Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board establishment

Project summary

What is the project?

This project will establish the Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board (the Board) 12 months prior to the commencement of the Act.

What is the project goal?

To establish the Board, ensure members are prepared and processes and infrastructure are in place for the commencement of the Act on 19 June 2019.

Why is it important?

To ensure the safe operation of voluntary assisted dying in Victoria the Act establishes the Board and sets out its functions and powers. These include monitoring matters related to voluntary assisted dying, promoting compliance with the Act as well as quality and safety in voluntary assisted dying, collecting data on voluntary assisted dying, providing reports to Parliament and referring potential issues to the appropriate agencies.

The Board's functions and powers provide assurance and transparency to the community about the safety of voluntary assisted dying in Victoria and its membership will reflect the knowledge and experience required to perform the above functions.

The inaugural Board needs to be set up 12 months before the commencement of the Act in order to establish a clear system of oversight before the Act commences operating.

While the functions and powers of the Board are set out in the Act, an operational model for the Board must be developed. This model must detail processes, protocols and requirements to ensure that the Board can effectively and efficiently perform all of its functions in readiness for voluntary assisted dying becoming legally available in Victoria.

How will the project achieve its goal?

The Taskforce will work in partnership with Safer Care Victoria to establish the Board and its processes 12 months prior to the commencement of the Act. Focus will be on developing an operational model for the Board based on a Consultative Council model.

The project will also require the development of an online reporting system so that data can be effectively and efficiently reported to the Board. Clinical and epidemiological expertise will be required for the design and implementation to the online reporting system.

The project will also develop a collaborative research program with existing research entities to identify key clinical, policy and practice issues and align research with these priorities. The development and commissioning of research will be in partnership with the Board, Safer Care Victoria and DHHS to support quality improvement and evidence development about end of life care and choices.

How will the project be organised?

The project will be carried out in partnership with Safer Care Victoria and persons with clinical and epidemiological expertise. Safer Care Victoria is independent from the Department and works in close collaboration to improve healthcare safety and quality at individual health practitioner, health service and system levels.

Who are the main stakeholders?

Health practitioners, health services, Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Coroner's Court of Victoria, VCAT, Victoria Police, Australia Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, Safer Care Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services.

What are the project deliverables?

- Recruit and establish the Board Secretariat.
 - Develop position descriptions and advertise
 - Conduct selection and appointment processes
- Provide appointment recommendations to the Minister for Health.
- Support members of the Board in preparing for and being familiar with, their obligations under the Act.
- Develop an operational model for the Board
 - Establish procedural requirements related to review, reporting and quality functions.
 - Establish processes and requirements for the collection, receipt and recording of data.
- Develop and disseminate forms and the Board's reporting requirements.
- Develop and disseminate protocols for sharing information with other agencies.
- Scope the Board's information technology requirements, including platform for data collection and integration with other existing platforms such as real time prescription and general practice software.
- Engage with other bodies and agencies that play a role in implementing voluntary assisted dying, including the Coroners Court, VCAT and the Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages.