

Voluntary Assisted Dying

Discussion Paper Fact Sheet

Key Messages

- Everyone has the right to make choices about their own life
 - The Western Australian government wants to make laws that allow some adults to ask for medical help to end their lives sooner if they are already dying and are suffering badly
 - These laws would be very strict
 - A group of experts is helping the government to decide how the laws might work
 - You are now being asked for your thoughts and ideas about that
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What is voluntary assisted dying?

Voluntary assisted dying means that some adults could ask for medical help to end their life if they have a disease or illness that is so severe it is going to cause their death and they are suffering badly.

Who could it help?

If laws are made in Western Australia it is expected that this could help Western Australians who are at least 18 years old and able to make their own decisions. They would have to be making the decision without pressure from anyone else. They would have to have a disease or illness that is going to cause their death and is causing them to suffer badly.

What about someone with a mental illness or disability?

It is expected that a person that only has a mental illness or a disability could not access voluntary assisted dying. They must also have a disease or illness that is going to cause their death and is causing them to suffer badly.

How would the decision be made? Can we make sure it is safe?

It is expected that the person would need to see two doctors and the doctors must agree that the person's situation fits the law. The doctors must make sure that no one is pressuring the person to make the choice. Sometimes another doctor would be asked their opinion too.

The person would always have the right to say "No".

What else do I need to know?

This is a simple fact sheet and does not have all the information on voluntary assisted dying.

Where can I find out more information?

The full discussion paper has much more detail about the possible law and how it might work. It also has questions for people to consider.

The full discussion paper is available on the website (details below). Parts of it can be listened to or watched on the website.

How can I tell the Government my opinion?

The group of experts will hold meetings in Perth and in country WA. They will explain the ideas and listen to what people have to say.

Please attend these meetings. Details of the meetings are on the website.

You are also welcome to answer the questions on the website, send in an email or write to the group of experts. Information that you provide will be put up on the website unless you ask us not to.

Website: health.wa.gov.au/voluntaryassisteddying

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