



### **Victorian Assisted Dying Laws commence today**

After the historic passage of the Victorian Voluntary Assisted Dying Act in 2017, terminally ill Victorians now have the right to choose a peaceful death. This means that one quarter of Australia's population has access to safe and legal assisted dying laws if they face unbearable suffering at the end of their lives.

We celebrate Victoria's remarkable achievement but we have to ask - why is this not available in New South Wales?

With public support now approaching 90% we must make MPs understand how strongly the community feels about this issue and let them know the terrible suffering which many experience in their last days, even with the best palliative care. MPs must not be influenced by the fear-mongering and misinformation spread by opponents who are motivated by religion and ideology rather than compassion and common sense.

We expect another assisted dying bill before NSW Parliament this year. Will you contact your local MP today and tell them why these laws are so desperately needed in New South Wales?

[Please use this link to email your local MP - It will take 5 minutes](#)

**Email your MP now**

## **Other important updates**

**Dr Rodney Syme OA Award:** We were delighted to see dying with dignity pioneer, Dr Rodney Syme awarded a Member of the Order of Australia last weekend. Rodney has been advocating for assisted dying laws for over 25 years and his role in the Victorian law cannot be overstated. Read more about this remarkable man [here](#).

**Fake News - supposed euthanasia of Dutch Teenager Noa Pothoven:** News outlets around the world falsely reported Noa's desperately sad death as euthanasia before it was exposed as fake news. But VAD opponents are still circulating the story to spread fear about the dangers of assisted dying. Read more [here](#).

**Catholic Church campaign:** The Sydney Catholic Archdiocese is running a campaign of misinformation about the Belgian VAD laws claiming that hundreds of people are being killed each year without their consent - details [here](#). They are using data about the practice of "terminal sedation" which is not part of the Belgian VAD regime. Instead, it is a well accepted practice in palliative care around the world, including in catholic run healthcare facilities in Australia. 3AW's Neil Mitchell described it as "hurtful, destructive, dangerous nonsense". [Listen here](#).

**Belinda's Brave Walk to Western Australia:** On 28 May, 27 year old Perth woman Belinda Teh began a walk from Melbourne to Perth to highlight the need for assisted dying laws in honour of her mother, Mareia, who died in 2016 just months after she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She is due to arrive in Perth on August 6, just before the WA parliament debates its voluntary assisted dying bill. Follow her journey [here](#).

**Maine passes VAD laws:** The state of Maine becomes the 8th jurisdiction in America to pass VAD laws.

**VAD Inquiry in South Australia:** In breaking news, the SA Parliament has announced an inquiry into End of Life Choices and is seeking public submissions. Find out more [here](#).

**Details of Victorian VAD law:** Click [here](#) for details of the Victorian law. See also this excellent editorial from The Age - details [here](#)

**How else can you help? Here are some ideas.**

**Hassle your Member of Parliament:** Make an appointment to see them at their electorate office to discuss voluntary assisted dying laws. Send them a handwritten letter. Call their office staff to tell them your concerns. Speak with MPs at community events and forums. Post questions on MPs websites and facebook pages. Become active in local branches of their political party. Contact details here: [MPs Names and Electorates](#) and [Electorate Office Contact Info](#)

**Motivate your Community:** Recruit your family and friends to the cause. Become a local organiser and run a campaign in your electorate. Ask your

doctor for their views on voluntary assisted dying. Write letters to the local community newspaper or to the major publications. Speak with people at your church or club. Raise the issue on talkback radio - call the shockjocks.

**Contribute to our campaign:** We are preparing information packs for NSW MPs to help educate them about voluntary assisted dying laws in the lead up to the next Bill later this year. Can you contribute to the \$2000 we need to have these documents printed?

**Donate now**

As always, thank you for your continued support.

**Penny Hackett**

**President**

Dying with Dignity NSW

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