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Media release

20 February 2025

Dying With Dignity Victoria welcomes proposed changes to Voluntary Assisted Dying Act

- ***Improving access to VAD***
- ***Increasing community awareness and grief and bereavement supports***
- ***Supporting the VAD workforce***

Dying With Dignity Victoria (DWDV) welcomes the Victorian Government's response to the Five Year Review of the operation of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017 and the proposed legislative amendments.

"The Victorian Government's recommendations for changes to the Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) Act 2017 are great news for all Victorians and will improve access and support for people seeking VAD in Victoria," Jane Morris, President, DWDV said.

"We congratulate the Victorian Government on accepting all five recommendations of the Five Year Review report and undertaking to bring forward legislative amendments in 2025."

DWDV is particularly pleased the Government is proposing amendments that will:

- Remove the "gag clause" and allow health practitioners to initiate VAD discussions
- Extend the prognosis requirement to 12 months for all VAD applicants
- Amend the time period between first and final VAD requests
- Amend citizenship and residency requirements
- Simplify the permit process
- Require additional reviews of the operation and scope of the Act

"The Review recommendations to enhance community awareness of VAD and grief and bereavement supports, and support the VAD workforce are critical to improve Victorians' experience of VAD and ensure VAD remains accessible, viable and sustainable," Ms Morris said.

"It is also extremely important that the Victorian Government advocates to the Commonwealth Government for greater federal support for VAD, including amending the Criminal Code to allow the use of carriage services for VAD services and pursuing VAD-specific funding options.

"We look forward to working with the Government to support the implementation of the report's recommendations, in particular expanding the VAD-specific grief and bereavement program currently provided by DWDV and Griefline."

Available for interview:

- Jane Morris, DWDV President; Dr Nick Carr, DWDV board member

Media contact:

- Michelle Hindson 0414 207 049 media@dwdv.org.au

Dying With Dignity Victoria

Founded in 1974, Dying With Dignity Victoria (DWDV) is a charitable organisation pursuing public policies and laws in the state of Victoria to enhance self-determination and dignity at the end of life. DWDV's purpose is to relieve distress, helplessness and suffering for Victorians with untreatable, painful or terminal illnesses.

dwdv.org.au