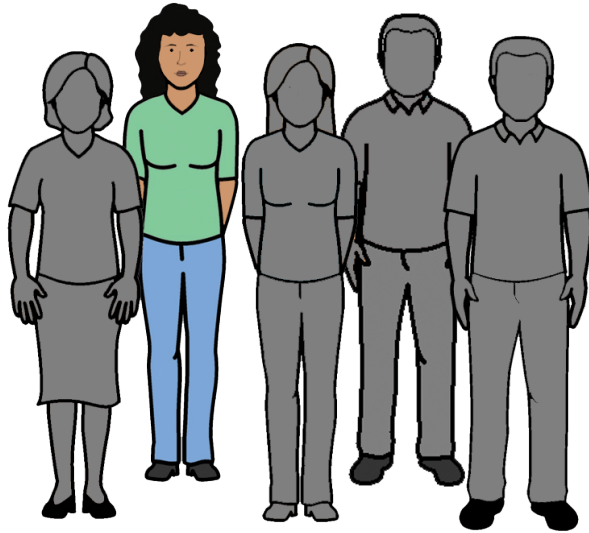




**ACT**  
Government



# Who should be allowed to get help to die?

**ACT Government**



**Easy English**

## Hard words



This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

- the word is in **blue**
- we write what the hard word means.

## You can get help with this book



You can get someone to help you

- read this book
- know what this book is about
- find more information.



We will write contact information at the end of this book.



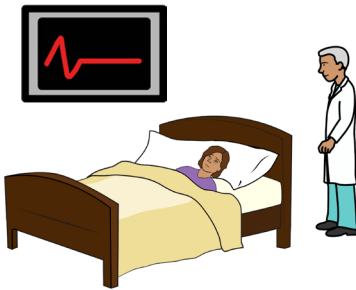
## About this book

This book is from the ACT Government.



Some topics in this book might make you feel sad or upset.

You can talk to someone if you feel sad or upset.



This book is about **voluntary assisted dying**.

Voluntary assisted dying is when a person gets help to die

- when they want to
- how they want to.

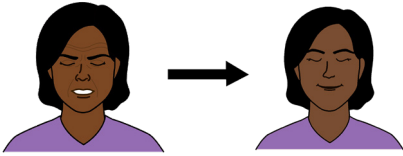
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



You can help us decide who should be allowed to get help to die.

## What we want to do

We want to help very ill people who are dying to **suffer** less.



Suffer means you feel lots of pain.



For example, a person who suffers might

- be very upset that they will die
- feel a lot of pain in their body.



We want to make a new **law** for the ACT.

A law is a rule.



The new law will let some very ill people choose voluntary assisted dying.



Other places in Australia already have such a law.

## What you can do



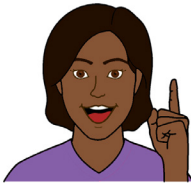
You can help us make the law for the ACT.



We want to know what people want the law to say.



We will write some questions in this book.



You can tell us what you think.

## Very ill people should decide what they want

Some people when they get very ill



- forget what happens

- **cannot** say what they want anymore



- **cannot** make good decisions anymore.

We think people should only get help to die if they are able to



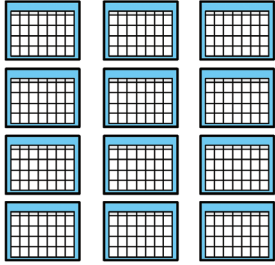
- decide what they want

- make good decisions.



A doctor can check if a very ill person is able to decide what they want.

## How soon should people be able to get help to die?

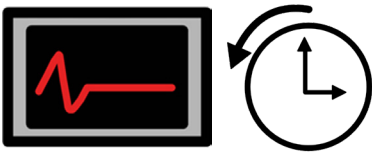


Other places in Australia allow help to die only for people who are likely to die soon.

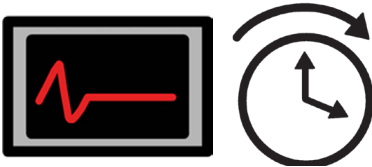
For example, in 1 year.



The problem is doctors **cannot** say for sure when someone will die.



Some very ill people will die sooner than doctors think.



Others will die later than doctors think.

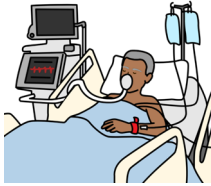


People who suffer should get help soon.



You can tell us how soon very ill people should get help to die.

## How much should people suffer?



We could say people can only get help to die if

- they are dying from illness

and

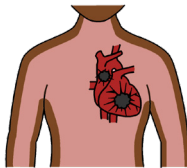


- they suffer too much.

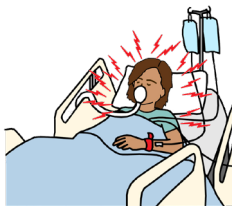
Sometimes people suffer for more than one reason.

For example, the people might suffer from

- the illness



or



- the **treatment**.

Treatment means care you get for an illness.





We wonder what rules we should make so that people do **not** suffer too much.



Some people will only suffer too much when they are very close to dying.



You can tell us what rules you think are fair.

## Do people need to live in the ACT?



We could make the law only for people who are

- Australian
- allowed to live in Australia forever.



We could also say people **must** live in the ACT.

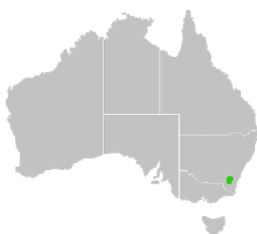
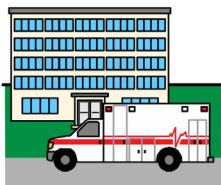


We want to know if this is fair.



There are many people who

- work here but live somewhere else
- get health care here but live somewhere else.

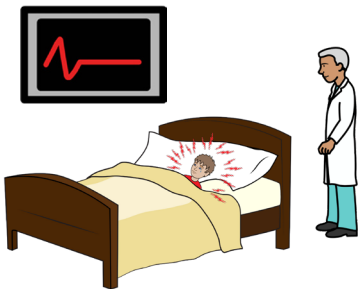


Should very ill people get help to die in the ACT if they live somewhere else?

## Should only adults get help to die?



In other places in Australia you **must** be 18 years or older to get help to die.



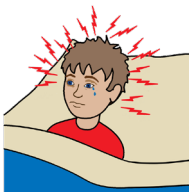
It could be fair to let younger people who are very ill get help to die too.

For example, a 17 year old.



We wonder if we should allow some younger people to get help to die if

- they are very ill
- they suffer too much
- they are able to make good decisions.





## More information

You can read more on our website.

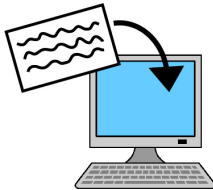


Website [YourSay.act.gov.au/vad](https://YourSay.act.gov.au/vad)



## How can you have your say?

You can tell us what you think in an email.



Email [VADsubmissions@act.gov.au](mailto:VADsubmissions@act.gov.au)

## If you need help to find information



Our team at Access Canberra can help you.

Call 13 22 81



## **If you feel sad and upset**

### **Lifeline**

Lifeline can help you if you worry about your life.



Call            13 11 14

### **Griefline**

Griefline can help you if you feel sad and worried because someone is dying.



Call            1300 845 745

## **If you do not speak English**



Use the free Translating and Interpreting Service or TIS.



Call            131 450

Give the TIS officer the phone number you want to call.



## If you need help to speak or listen

The National Relay Service can help you make a phone call.

Call            1800 555 660

Website    [bit.ly/nrs-helpdesk](http://bit.ly/nrs-helpdesk)

Give the relay officer the phone number you want to call.

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