



ACT
Government



Safe rules for dying people 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.



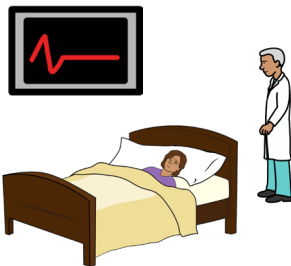
About this book

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

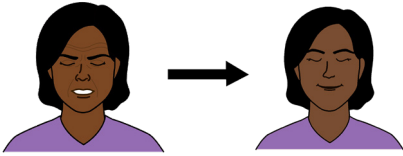
- when they want to
- how they want to.

| 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 make sure that people who want help to die are safe.

What we want to do



We want to help 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.

How other places make it safe to get help to die



In other places in Australia very ill people can only get help to die if 2 doctors say **yes**.



The doctors **must** have lots of

- experience



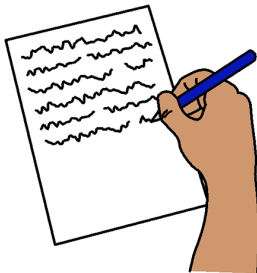
- training.



The doctors will check that the people meet all the rules.



Only some very ill people will be allowed to get help to die.



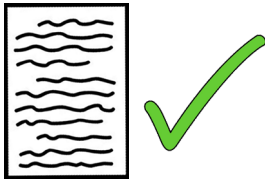
The very ill people **must** write a letter to say that they want to die.

The people **must** have a **witness** when they write the letter.



A witness is someone who

- sees what happens
- knows the letter is real.



If the very ill person meets all the rules the doctor will

- fill in a form



- get a medicine that helps the person die when they want to.

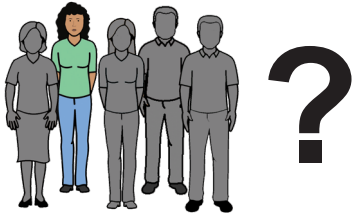


The person can take the medicine when they are ready to die.



We want to know what you think about these rules.

How can we make it easy to find information?



We want to make it easy for people to find information about

- who is allowed to get help to die



- how it works



- who can help them.



We want to know what other information you think is important.



People could ask their regular doctor for the information they need.

How can we make it easy to find help to die?



We want to make it easy for dying people to find the right **health professionals**.

A health professional cares for your health.

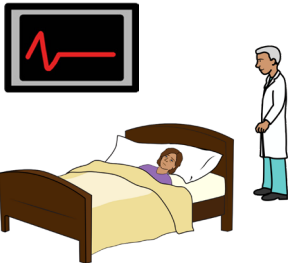
For example



- a doctor



- a nurse



We want to make sure that health professionals in the ACT

- can help dying people



- get good support



- make good decisions.

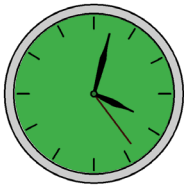
How can we make sure that people have a choice?



Nobody should tell a very ill person what to do.

We could say in the law that the person **must** have

- enough time to think
- a witness who knows the person made their own decision.



We think the witness should be **independent**.



Independent means someone who does not take sides.



You can tell us what you think.

What rules should we make for the medicine?



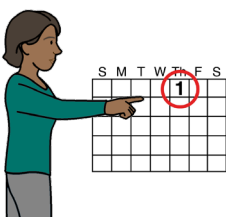
We could let very ill people decide **how** they want to take the medicine that helps them die.



Some people can take the medicine themselves.



Other people might want a doctor to help them.



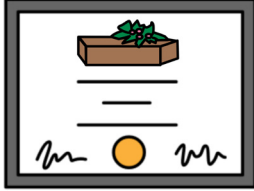
We could also let the people decide **when** they are ready to take the medicine.



Some people who have the medicine will

- change their mind
- never use it.

After a person dies

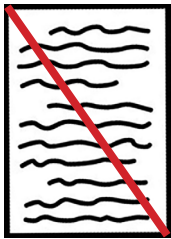


When someone dies in the ACT
the government can write a **death certificate**.

A death certificate is a legal letter that says
someone has died.



The death certificate also says the reason
someone has died.



Some families do **not** want the death
certificate to say a person got help to die.



Do you think we should let the families decide?



You can tell us what you think.



More information

You can read more on our website.

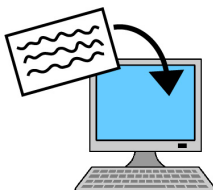


Website YourSay.act.gov.au/vad



How can you have your say?

You can tell us what you think in an email.



Email VADsubmissions@act.gov.au

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

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

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