



ACT
Government



Rules for health professionals who help dying people

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 how **health professionals** could help dying people.

Health professionals care for your health.

For example

- a doctor



- a nurse.

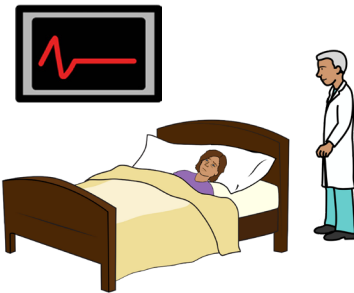


What we want to do



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

A law is a rule.



The new law 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 | | |



The new law will say how health professionals
can help dying people.



Other places in Australia already have such
a law.

Why do we need the new law?



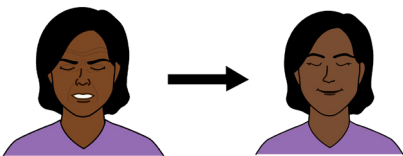
Many very ill people **suffer** when they are about to die.

Suffer means you feel lots of pain.

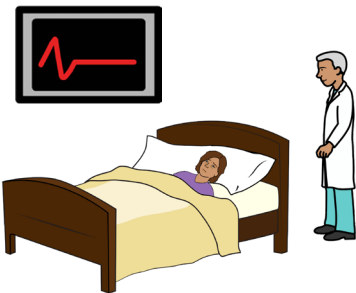


A person who suffers might

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

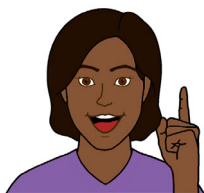


We want people to suffer **less**.

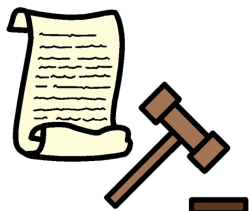


Very ill people should have a choice to get help to die.

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 you can only get help to die if 2 doctors say **yes**.



The doctors **must** have lots of experience.
For example, 5 years.



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



Not everyone will be able to get help to die.

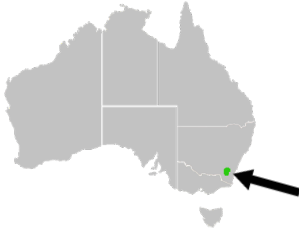


People who meet the rules can get medicine from the doctor that helps them die.



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

Should we allow other health professionals to help?



The ACT is a small state.



There might **not** be enough doctors with the right skills to help very ill people die.

We wonder if we should allow other health professionals to help too if they have

- good skills

and

- good experience.



For example, we could allow **nurse practitioners** to help.



Nurse practitioners are nurses with special skills and training.

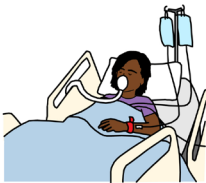
What skills should the health professionals have?



We want to make sure health professionals do the right thing.



We could say a health professional **must** get special training to help a dying person.



We could also say a health professional **must** be an expert in the illness of the dying person.



We want to know what skills you think a health professional should have.

When can a health professional talk about help to die?



In some places in Australia a doctor **cannot** start to talk to someone about help to die.

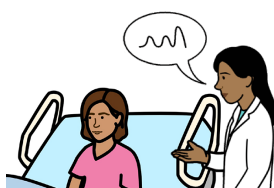
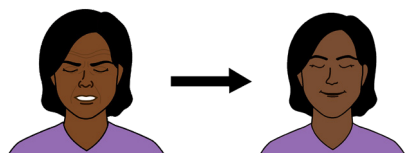


The doctor **must** wait if a dying person asks.



If a dying person asks, the doctor **must**

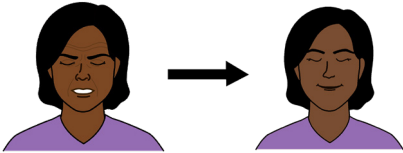
- explain how it works
- talk about other ways to suffer less.



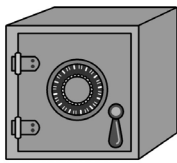
Should we let health professionals talk about help to die if a dying person does **not** ask?

What rules should we make for the medicine?

We want to make sure the medicine that helps people die is



- safe



- kept away from anyone who is **not** allowed to use it.



Other places in Australia say only doctors can order the medicine.

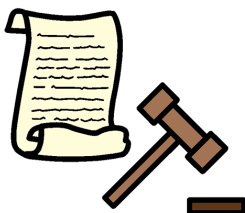


The doctors must write a report to an **independent agency**.



Independent agency means people who

- do **not** take sides



- check that everyone follows the law.



Only a **pharmacist** can give out the medicine.

A pharmacist works in a pharmacy.



Some places in Australia say the pharmacist **must** have extra training.



The pharmacist **must** check that the right person gets the medicine.



The pharmacist **must** warn the person about the medicine.



The person can ask for help to take the medicine.



You can tell us what rules you think we should make for the medicine.

Health professionals should feel safe



Only some health professionals will be able to help someone die.



All health professionals who follow the law should feel safe.



It is a crime if other people help someone die.

What if a health professional does not want to help?



Health professionals could say **no** to helping very ill people die because they

- lack the skills
- are busy.





Some health professionals say **no** because it is against their

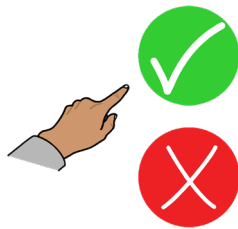
- religion



- culture



- personal beliefs.



Health professionals should have the right to choose.

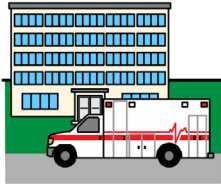


Health professionals who say no **must** say who else could help.



You can tell us what you think about these rules.

Should we tell health services they must help?



Health services include

- hospitals
- old people homes
- **palliative care** homes.

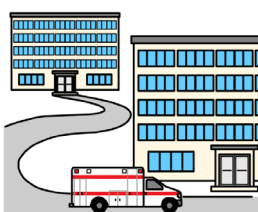


Palliative care is care for people who are dying.



We could say that all health services **must** let patients

- choose how they want to die
- get a visit from a health professional who can help them die.



If a health service says **no**, they must move patients to a place that can help.



More information

You can read more on our website.

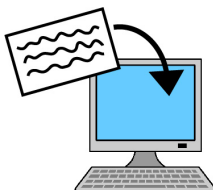


Website YourSay.act.gov.au/vad



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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