



ACT
Government



Help for dying people

How we can make sure it works

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 a new **law** to help people who are dying.



A law is a rule.

You can have your say



You can help us decide

- what the new law should say
- how we can make sure the new law works.



Why do we need the new law?



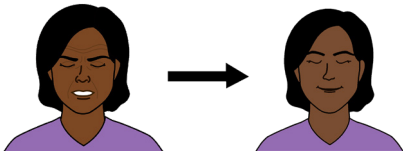
Many very ill people **suffer** when they are about to die.

Suffer means you feel lots of pain.



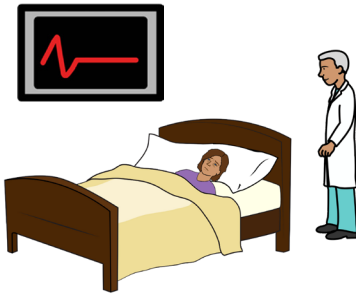
A person who suffers might

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



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

What is the new law about?



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 let some very ill people who
suffer get help to die.



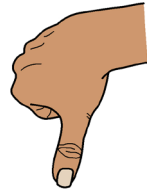
Other places in Australia already have such
a law.

How the new law will work



We want everyone in the ACT to know

- what they are allowed to do
- what they are **not** allowed to do.



For example, we want everyone to know

- when a person can get help to die
- how a doctor can help
- what training the doctor needs.



The law will also say if other **health professionals** are allowed to help.

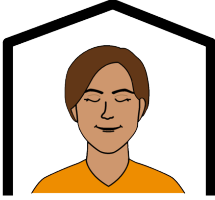


Health professionals care for your health.
For example, a nurse.

We want to keep people safe

We want to make sure that people who want help to die

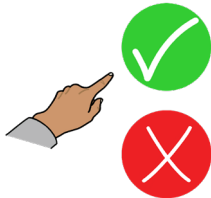
- are safe



- get good information



- have a choice about what happens.



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



We could ask health professionals to tell us every time they help a dying person.



We want to know what information you think we should get from health professionals.



We want to check that health professionals follow the law



Other places in Australia do many checks on health professionals.

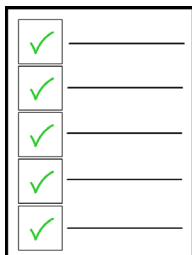


The health professionals **must** send many reports to an **independent agency**.

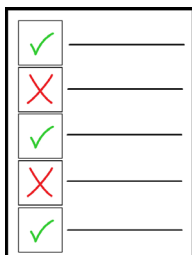


Independent agency means people who

- do **not** take sides
- check that everyone follows the law.



Some places in Australia check every report.



Other places in Australia only check some of the reports.

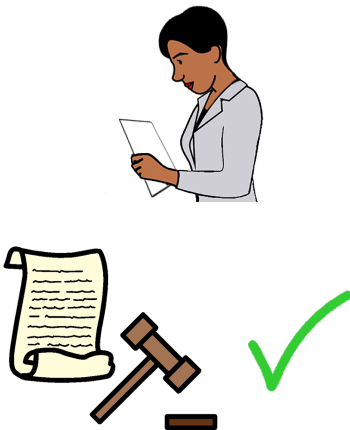


Some places in Australia make dying people wait until after each check.

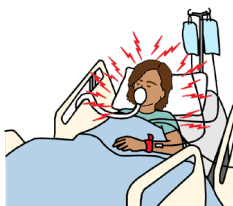


For example, the people **cannot** get the medicine that helps them die unless

- the health professional sends a report
- the independent agency checks the report
- the independent agency says everyone follows the law.



We want to make sure health professionals follow the law.



We also want to make sure dying people get help fast.



You can tell us what checks you think are fair.

If people are not happy with a health professional



We want to know what should happen if

- a very ill person wants help to die

and



- the health professional says **no**

and



- the very ill person is **not** happy about the decision.



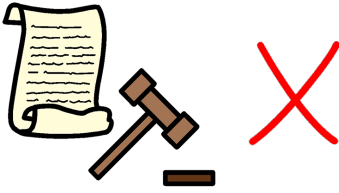
Other places in Australia say the person can ask someone to look at the decision again.

For example, a court.



You can tell us what rules we should make for people who are **not** happy.

If people break the law



We want to know what should happen if someone does **not** follow the law.



For example, it would be against the law if

- a doctor lies in a report



- a person helps someone die who is **not** allowed to help



- the person who gets help to die does **not** want to die.



Some places in Australia have a phone number you can call if you think a health professional breaks the law.

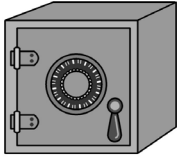


We want to know how we should punish people who break the law.

How can we keep the medicine safe?

We want to keep the medicine that helps people die safe from anyone who

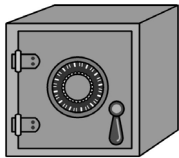
- is **not** allowed to have it



- wants to break the law.

The people who are allowed to have the medicine should know

- how to keep the medicine safe



- how to handle the medicine

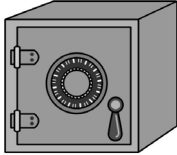
- how to take the medicine



- what to do with medicine that is **not** used.



Some places in Australia have made special rules for the medicine.



For example, some places in Australia say

- the medicine **must** be kept in a locked box



- a doctor can only get the medicine if the independent agency says **yes**



- a **pharmacist** who has the medicine **must** write a report.



A pharmacist works in a pharmacy.



You can tell us what rules we should make to keep the medicine safe.



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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Notes

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