



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019

Implementation Update

Implementation Leadership Team - Communique May 2020

The [*Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019*](#) (the Act) was passed by Parliament in December 2019. Part 1 (other than divisions 2 to 4) commenced on Royal Assent (19 December 2019) and the rest of the Act will commence on proclamation (expected mid-2021).

The Department of Health has commenced the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act Implementation Project (VADAIP) which has included the establishment of the Implementation Leadership Team. This Team has been set up to provide expert advice to the Department as well as overseeing, co-ordinating and facilitating the work required to prepare for voluntary assisted dying in Western Australia.

The Implementation Leadership Team (ILT) has begun the initially daunting task of overseeing the translation of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019 into a service for the people of Western Australia. The focus from the outset is for voluntary assisted dying to be a safe practice while being accessible to and respectful of the sensitive circumstances surrounding people approaching the end of their life.

The ILT is working in several workstreams and in the first month has developed a good understanding of the scope of the work that is required. While the task is complex, the Team is beginning to deliver good advice from all the workstreams.

Dr Scott Blackwell
Chair, Implementation Leadership Team

Implementation Leadership Team

The Implementation Leadership Team has commenced its work in preparation for voluntary assisted dying to be available to eligible Western Australians at end of life in mid-2021.

The Implementation Leadership Team members are listed below, and you can find out more about each member [here](#):

- Dr Scott Blackwell (Chair)
- Noreen Fynn (Deputy Chair)
- Dr Elissa Campbell
- Amanda Collins-Clinch
- Margaret Denton
- Stephanie Dowden
- Assoc Professor Christopher Etherton-Beer
- Chris Kane
- Dr Andrew Miller
- Hon Dr Sally Talbot MLC
- Dr Peter Wallace

Preparation for Implementation

There are many important elements involved in preparing for the introduction of voluntary assisted dying in Western Australia.

Members of the Implementation Leadership Team have been appointed to lead workgroups tasked with a number of these elements, including: establishing the Voluntary Assisted Dying Board, the development of clinical guidelines and service delivery framework, recommendation of suitable voluntary assisted dying substance/s for approval, development of Pharmacy Service and Care Navigator Services, mandatory participating practitioner training, developing consumer, community and health provider information, and the establishment of secure data and reporting mechanisms.

The Implementation Leadership Team will be working closely with key stakeholders throughout this project to ensure that voluntary assisted dying is implemented safely and appropriately within the context of existing care options available to people at the end of life. Updates will be provided to all stakeholders on a regular basis. Engagement with specific key stakeholders will be undertaken as required by each workgroup.

Where can I go for more information?

While the Implementation Leadership Team work to develop specific resources for Western Australia there are many useful resources available online:

- [WA Department of Health website on voluntary assisted dying](#)
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- [Victorian Department of Health and Human Services website on voluntary assisted dying](#)
- [Queensland University of Technology – End of Life Law for Clinicians](#)

If you have any queries, please contact the project team at the Department of Health via email at VADimplementation@health.wa.gov.au



Government of Western Australia Department of Health

<https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/voluntaryassisteddying>

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