

## President's Report

Well, we have certainly hit the ground running in 2025 at a frenetic pace. I cannot thank our wonderful DWDV team enough for all the time they have invested into addressing all the issues that have descended upon us this year. I am so very proud of not only what we have achieved so far but also of the calibre of our team and the exemplary high standard of work produced.

I would like to congratulate Michelle Hindson on becoming our new Vice-President. Michelle has been inundated with work from the moment she joined the Board and has risen to the challenge admirably. I am in awe of her many talents and so grateful for her unwavering support. DWDV is very excited to announce that Dr Harriet Beevor has accepted our invitation to join the board. We now have three doctors, all of whom are VAD providers and working in different fields of medicine.

The big news this year has been the release of the long awaited independent *Five Year Review of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017*. Despite its tardy release we welcomed its content and the 5 recommendations made. More pleasing was not only the State Labor Government's acceptance of these recommendations, but the government's intention to draft a bill that will include desperately needed amendments to the current VAD legislation. These amendments will allow for greater equity of access to the very Victorians for whom the legislation was specifically designed.

We commend the State Government and greatly appreciate being invited to participate in discussions as a key stakeholder. There are further amendments to our current legislation that we would like to see included and we will continue to advocate for them.

Dr Sarah Mansfield, MLC The Greens, has presented a bill in Parliament for its second reading. This bill urges the state government to consider even further reforms be made to Victoria's VAD legislation that would

improve VAD accessibility. We applaud Dr Mansfield and her team for all the wonderful work they are doing.



*Jane Morris*

A Federal election is imminent and although VAD is state/territory based, federal legislation does impact the efficacy and operation of the VAD process. DWDV has released its *2025 Federal Election Platform*. Many thanks to Danielle Clarke for all the work she has done in preparing this document. We have observed for almost 6 years that the Federal ban on VAD being discussed over a carriage, or other electronic, service is grossly discriminatory and cruel for those unable to attend face to face medical consultations. DWDV has also worked hard, albeit to no avail, to ensure that the VAD process is listed on the Medicare Benefits Schedule.

For those missing other "important DWDV news", rest assured these items will be covered in our next newsletter and will include news on our rapidly expanding National Young Ambassador group along with further news of its global expansion. We have spent time this year focusing on the topic of Advance Care Directives and I would like to sincerely thank DWDV volunteer Lisa Hindson for her work in this area. She has been working with Danielle Jacobs to provide us with some fabulous research findings that enhance our knowledge of the work being carried out by other organisations in this area.

Our VAD support group pilot program that we have funded is now in its second year, and we look forward to providing you with updated news on the progress of the support groups in our next newsletter.

*Continued on P 2*

*Continued from P 1*

Former DWDV Board member, Associate Professor Peter Lange, is now on the Victorian Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board. He kindly spoke to a group of us about VAD and Dementia. Following his presentation, we received so much wonderful feedback that we have invited Peter to join us again for a repeat performance.

We bid farewell to Tiff Papas who managed our social media sites. She did an extraordinary job in improving the quality and performance of our sites. We wish Tiff well with her future endeavours.

I can't emphasise enough, how much we enjoy working collaboratively with the other assisted dying organizations around Australia, as well as New Zealand, and other international organisations. It is a tremendous group of people with all of whom it is a privilege and a joy to work alongside.

As always, I thank our incredible GM Nat, without whom I would be lost.

## DWDV 2025 Federal Election Platform

DWDV has released its *2025 Federal Election Platform*. We recognised too many Australians are not having their needs met and we have called for more regional access, public education and support for healthcare professionals. It has also become evident that many Australians are finding their VAD application experience distressing and slow.

### **1. Remove the roadblocks**

We are asking the Federal Government to remove the roadblocks encountered by Australians traversing the VAD process. The major and most obstructive impediment is the 2005 amendment to the federal Criminal Code Act 1995, that prevents VAD being discussed in a telehealth consultation or through other electronic communications.

### **2. Look after those who look after us**

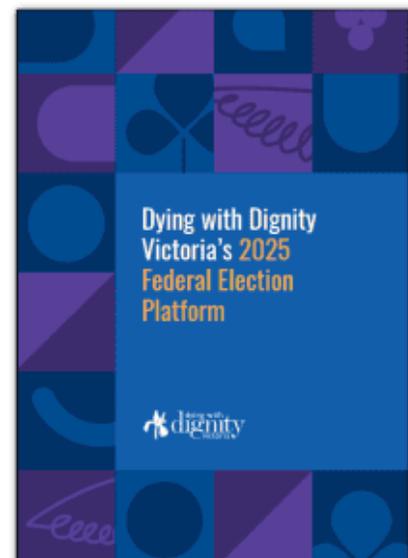
Those that are VAD providers must themselves be looked after. Attending to those at the end of life requires extraordinary commitment and compassion. VAD is not listed on the Medicare Benefits Schedule. Therefore, many providers are placed in the unenviable position of charging the patient/their families for their services or offering their services pro bono. We must ensure VAD providers are adequately provided for in an effort to tackle workforce shortages. We also need consistent support, communication and improved networking to support VAD provider wellbeing.

### **3. Quality care, everywhere**

Ensure all Australians can access quality end-of-life services in the setting of their choice. Over 70% of Australians would prefer to die at home, yet less than 10% are able to do so. We therefore suggest that there is greater investment in home-based Palliative Care.

### **4. The more we know, the better we go**

A concerted effort is desperately needed to increase end-of-life literacy across all sectors of the community. A survey conducted by the Queensland University of Technology found, disappointingly, that only 33% of people were aware of the option of VAD in their state.



# Five Year Review of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017



Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas and  
DWDV President Jane Morris.  
(Credit: Justin McManus)

The long awaited independent *Five Year Review of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017* was finally tabled in Parliament. To our great relief it was worth the wait. A press conference was subsequently held and Jane Morris (DWDV President) was honoured to be asked, as a DWDV representative, to stand alongside the Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas and the MP for Pakenham, Emma Vulin. The review report found the Act to be operating as intended, providing a safe and compassionate end-of life-choice for those Victorians deemed eligible for VAD.

The report provided the following five recommendations, and we highly commend the State Labor Government for accepting these:

**Recommendation 1:** Increase the provision of sector guidance and build on approaches to continuous improvement.

**Recommendation 2:** Enhance community awareness of VAD and grief and bereavement supports.

**Recommendation 3:** Support the workforce to ensure VAD is accessible, viable and sustainable.

**Recommendation 4:** Consider enhancements to the statewide service models to meet anticipated future demand.

**Recommendation 5:** Advocate to the Commonwealth Government for greater federal support for VAD.

The report also identified parts of the legislation that proved problematic for those trying to access and navigate the VAD process as they encountered impediments, many of which had been originally introduced as safeguards, in the legislation. Once the legislation became operational some of these 'safeguards' served as access barriers for the very Victorians for whom the legislation had originally been designed to help.

Furthermore, we were delighted to learn that in response to this review report, which included community feedback and recommendations made by the VAD Review Board, the Labor Government will draft a bill that will include critical and much needed changes to the Victorian VAD legislation. The most welcomed amendment will be the removal of 'The Gag Clause' so health practitioners will be able to initiate VAD conversations, ensuring patients will be made aware of all end-of-life care options.

Other major amendments include a requirement for health practitioners who conscientiously object to VAD to provide a minimum amount of information to patients.

The removal of the requirement that Victorians with neurodegenerative conditions seek a third assessment is also greatly welcomed.

Of course, we cannot be complacent for a moment and assume these amendments will pass through Parliament. DWDV has set up an 'amendment advocacy group' which has, under Michelle Hindson's leadership, already sprung into action making a submission to the Department of Health's Voluntary Assisted Dying Legislation Team and preparing materials for contact with State MPs. A major task for us is to canvass the VAD views of current MPs. Many former MPs have left Parliament since the 2017 VAD debate and we will work hard to contact and engage with the long list of newcomers.

We are grateful to have been considered a key stakeholder in this process by the State Government and pleased to have already been invited to engage in consultation. DWDV will suggest further amendments we consider instrumental in improving equity of access to VAD and ensuring that the VAD process is easy to navigate, free of unnecessary impediments.

# Dr Harriet Beevor

We are delighted to welcome Dr Harriet Beevor to the DWDV Board!



*Dr Harriet Beevor*

*I am a consultant anaesthetist based at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. I also work in several private hospitals around Melbourne.*

*At Peter Mac I am the supervisor of training for registrars specialising in anaesthetics and I really enjoy mentoring young doctors - particularly women - to show them that it is possible to have a demanding career and family.*

*I became a VAD practitioner in 2019 and have increasingly dedicated more time to this very worthy service. This work has taken me out of the operating theatre and onto the wards or patients' homes.*

*Meeting people in their most vulnerable moments has been both humbling and inspiring. My VAD work has opened my eyes to another facet of medicine and, I believe, made me a better doctor.*

*While I will continue to see patients, I would like to be more involved in the administrative side of VAD - focusing on workforce sustainability and support for fellow practitioners.*

*My other important roles are wife and mother to three small children (including twins!). We enjoy spending our weekends on the Mornington Peninsula. My other hobbies are running and playing tennis.*

## Dementia and VAD - A Complex Issue

Go Gentle Australia has just commissioned a most informative issues paper to provide background information about the complexities, discussions and key issues surrounding dementia and VAD in Australia. The paper provides a thorough analysis of the current position and the challenges involved in expanding VAD to dementia.

Read an overview of the issues paper here:

[https://www.gogentleaustralia.org.au/dementia\\_and\\_vad\\_a\\_complex\\_issue](https://www.gogentleaustralia.org.au/dementia_and_vad_a_complex_issue)

(There is a link on this page to download the full paper.)

Go Gentle Australia is also hosting a special event on 19 May 2025:

*Julian Kingma and Andrew Denton: The Power of Choice.*



*Julian Kingma*

What constitutes a good death? This profound question inspired renowned photographer Julian Kingma to turn his lens on those who have chosen assisted dying, as well as the caregivers who accompany them on their final journey. His book, *The Power of Choice*, is a collection of these intimate and poignant portraits that illuminate a raw and honest depiction of a deeply sensitive matter.



*Andrew Denton*

Join Kingma and Andrew Denton – the founder of Go Gentle - for a thought-provoking conversation that delves into the ethical, emotional and societal dimensions of deciding to let go on one's own terms. **Learn more and book here: <https://shorturl.at/uGwPo>**

# Vale Max Sutherland

*by Jane Morris*

I was introduced to Dr Max Sutherland by Dr Rodney Syme and I will be forever grateful to Rodney for bringing Max into my life.

Max was a gentleman, a loyal friend and an individual who achieved so much in life. Amongst his many successful accomplishments was the enormous contribution he made to the Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) movement within Australia.

Max was a Board member of Dying With Dignity Victoria for many years. He was highly respected by VAD advocates from all over Australia, including Marshall Perron, Neil Francis and Rodney Syme, all of whom became firm and lifelong friends. One of Max's greatest VAD achievements was the establishment of VAD-Media Watch. His initial newsletters reported news articles from the Northern Territory when, albeit for a short period of time, assisted dying was actually a legal end-of-life option! As the VAD movement advanced across Australia, so did the demand for Max to include coverage of all Australian VAD news. And in recent years VAD-Media Watch expanded its scope to cover global news as well. Liz Jacka, myself and more recently Geoffrey Williams now take it in turns to sit in the Editor's chair each week and we of course remain resolute in our commitment to honour this legacy to Max.



*From Max's "celebration of life"  
on Saturday March 15.  
L-R: Pat McCarthy, Judith Hoy,  
Jane Morris and Neil Francis*

Personally, I will miss Max enormously. I always valued our friendship, his wise counsel and his unique ability to infuse me with confidence whenever I felt inadequate in the VAD space. Most importantly I treasured our regular afternoon drinks at 'The Westin', with Judith Hoy and Pat McCarthy. Here we shared our heartfelt stories and tried ever so valiantly to solve the problems of the world.

Max, your intellect, sharp wit, determination to improve the lives and most importantly the deaths of others will be forever remembered.

I was so happy to know that Max was deservedly able to leave this world in the manner and at a time of his own choosing amidst the incredible love of his family.

Rest peacefully dear Max.



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# The gag clause

*by Dr Nick Carr*

When the VAD bill was passed in the Victorian parliament at the end of 2017, it only scraped through (by 4 votes) because of a number of amendments. One of these 68 so-called safeguards was what has become known as the gag clause – that no health professional can raise the option of VAD with a patient.

So what is this clause, why does it matter and why are we at DWDV delighted that Minister for Health, Mary-Anne Thomas has included the removal of this clause as part of her suite of recommendations?

Currently a patient must know enough about the option of VAD to be able to approach a doctor and specifically ask for advice about it.

We have been advised that it's not adequate for someone to say – as many do – something along the lines of "I've had enough, I want that stuff the vets use." There must be a specific mention of VAD.

No great problem for the health literate, and those fluent in English, but we know that awareness of the VAD option remains relatively low amongst the general population. It is no great leap to infer that amongst many migrant and CALD communities that awareness is likely to be lower still.

Why does this matter? Those with terminal illnesses face a myriad of complex decisions – chemo or not? Surgery, radiotherapy, both or neither? Clinical trial of an as yet untested treatment? In some cases these options may be brutal, speculative or both, but given an uncertain future and possibly unpleasant death, it is very hard for someone to say no, stop – a choice they might make, if they know the option of a peaceful end under their own control is also available.

One example; a woman in her late seventies, let's call her Margaret. Margaret had had a great life, but now had a nasty head and neck cancer. Her oncologist advised that, with surgery, radio- and chemotherapy it was curable, but that the recovery and long-term side-effects would be severe. She did her research, spoke to other survivors, and decided that, for her, the results of treatment were unacceptable. Her team strongly urged treatment – after all, it would probably save her life – but she declined and came to me for VAD.

For her, this was absolutely the right choice. But Margaret could only make it because she knew to ask. Had she not known, she would likely have endured a course of treatment and outcome that, for her, would have been misery.

The clause was inserted to stop doctors from saying things like, "Let's not bother treating you, you could just have VAD". I believe that this was always a false fear. Health professionals want to treat people, they want to offer everything they can. If anything, the pressure is to stay alive, even if that's not the patient's wishes. That was certainly Margaret's experience, when she described to me the almost hostile response from her oncology team when she declined treatment.



*Dr Nick Carr*



There is no other area of medicine where health professionals are barred from telling their patients all their options. Rather the contrary – it can be seen as negligent not to do so.

With VAD now legal in all states and the ACT, there are only 2 states - Victoria and South Australia - with a gag clause.

Let's hope that it will soon be down to one - and then none!

# NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA ...

## Australian Capital Territory

Voluntary assisted dying will become operative in the ACT from 3 November 2025. President of Dying With Dignity ACT, Sam Delaney, has been working furiously with his team on the issue of VAD ineligibility of individuals diagnosed with dementia. Michelle Hindson attended a recent forum in Canberra, organised by DWDACT; *VAD and the realities of end-of-life in Canberra*.



## New South Wales

Last November DWDNSW celebrated its 50th birthday, at the same time marking the first year of VAD operation. A VAD witnessing program has been established and after 15 sessions has trained over 160 volunteers and conducted over 100 written VAD declaration 'witnessings'. The development of "regional pods" is a current topic of focus to help raise VAD awareness and the need for Advance Care Planning in local communities. Plans are being made to develop a directory to help people find an end-of-life doula in their area.

## Northern Territory

It has been wonderful to see some VAD related activity occurring in Australia's only jurisdiction not to have legalised VAD. Independent MP, Justine Davis, has given notice that she will call on the incumbent Country Liberal Party (CLP) to introduce an assisted dying bill. She will put forward a motion in May and hopes to gain more support for the bill in the interim to ensure that it can progress to a Private Members' Bill. Unfortunately, the Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro has made it very clear right from the start of her term that assisted dying legislation is not a priority of hers.

## Queensland

Research from the Queensland University of Technology has revealed that, despite VAD having been operative in Queensland for over 2 years, only 33% of people are aware that it is a legal end-of-life option.

## South Australia

The VAD Review Board released its quarterly report for July – September 2024. The number of deaths during this quarter was 67, compared with 43 from the previous quarter. It is interesting to note that SA VAD Health Practitioner Training is now eligible for CPD points on the RACGP's training portal. The other important announcement was that the SA VAD Review Board has established a VAD Research Subcommittee that has approved two new research projects which 1) aim to understand the experiences of patients, family and carers and 2) survey VAD clinicians on organ donation.

## Victoria

The Victorian Labor State Government announced that they will accept the 5 recommendations listed in an independent 5-year review of Voluntary Assisted Dying in Victoria. DWDV and others have highly commended the government on this announcement. The government will now draft a bill to include the critical amendments needed to remove the processes and safeguards that have been identified as access barriers impeding patient-centred care and quality of experience for those wanting to choose VAD as an end-of-life option. See Pages 2 and 3 for more information.

Meanwhile, we reported in our last newsletter that Victorian Greens MLC, Dr Sarah Mansfield had introduced a Private Members Bill to Parliament to reform Victoria's VAD legislation. In March this year she presented the second reading of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Amendment (Equity and Access) Bill 2024*. This bill urges the state government to consider even further reforms that could be made to Victoria's VAD legislation that would improve VAD accessibility.

# ... AND AROUND THE WORLD



## Belgium

The number of patients opting for VAD in Belgium rose by nearly 17% in 2024 with a total of 3,991 cases that represented 3.6% of deaths in 2024 compared with 3.1% in 2023. All were said to meet the legal requirements.

## Canada

Last year saw the introduction of legislation in Quebec enabling a person suffering from dementia to make an advance request for MAiD. This has become operative despite a federal ban on participating doctors. Canada's federal health minister has announced that the government will commence a public consultation on this issue this year with a view to expanding legislation nationally. It has just been announced that a federal election will take place on April 28. At this stage none of the major parties have published a party platform regarding MAiD or other end-of-life issues.

## Cyprus

The need to introduce assisted dying legislation in Cyprus is being discussed. However, many feel this is being called for simply because there is insufficient Palliative care available for all who need it.

## France

The French Prime Minister François Bayrou of the French Democratic Party since December last year announced plans to divide highly sensitive legislation that would legalise assisted dying into two separate parts. One part would legalise assisted dying for patients with short- or medium-term terminal illness and the other would reform palliative care for those with complex or terminal illness. His plans have drawn strong criticism, and opponents have warned that the move could delay assisted dying reforms.

## India

A significant debate has erupted among medical professionals and legal experts, days after the Karnataka State government issued a circular granting terminally ill patients the legal right to end their suffering. While some support the move as a compassionate step towards patient autonomy, others contend that India lacks a comprehensive legal framework to regulate such decisions. However, the issue becomes clouded with the Health minister stating this would only be applicable to people who are on life support and not responding to life-sustaining treatment.

## Ireland

Assisted dying advocates are frustrated, questioning the delay in the progression of the Assisted Dying legislation. The legislation has lain dormant for nearly a year after the Oireachtas report on assisted dying that included 38 recommendations, in March last year.

## ... AND AROUND THE WORLD (cont.)

### Italy

Earlier this year the Opposition party in Tuscany appealed a decision to introduce Assisted Dying. However, a voluntary assisted dying law was recently passed. This is partly attributed to the fact that health legislation is devolved from the central government. We applaud the wonderful work done by the Luca Coscioni Association. The law requires a medical and ethics commission to consider an end-of-life request for no more than 30 days. Regional health services must provide the necessary medication and a doctor within 10 days. All medical personnel have the right to opt out.

### Kenya

There have been calls to legalise assisted dying to save terminally ill patients suffering in agony and indignity. Unfortunately, many Kenyan families struggle to afford prolonged hospital stays, medications and specialised care of terminally ill patients. There are many families that have exhausted all their life savings to cater for the medical needs of terminally ill patients and are often left destitute following the death of a loved one. The successful passage of VAD legislation in Kenya would involve amending several laws which are already subject to legal interpretation.

### Korea

Last year South Korea introduced the first draft of a bill to legalize physician assisted death. This bill described proposed eligibility criteria – for the terminally ill only, the person must be suffering from severe pain and the person must explicitly make a request for an assisted death to their doctor and 2 other physicians. The request must then be deliberated by an ethics committee headed by the minister of health and welfare, with medical and ethics experts. Debate continues, further ignited by 2 articles which recently appeared in the news. The first related to a citizen who travelled to Dignitas for an assisted death, and in a second case a desperate husband was sentenced to 7 years in prison after being found guilty of smothering his terminally ill wife to death.

### New Zealand/UK

Sean Davison is being investigated by police in England regarding his alleged involvement in the deaths of 29 people who requested an assisted death in Switzerland, where allegedly he accompanied them. This is not the first time that Davison has been investigated for involvement with assisted deaths. In 2010, in New Zealand, he was arrested and charged with attempted murder of his terminally ill mother and years later after relocating to South Africa was charged and pleaded guilty to the murder of several individuals in South Africa. He was sentenced to 3 years of house arrest.

### Slovenia

In Ljubljana, an assisted dying bill has been submitted to the parliament. This occurred more than 6 months after nearly 55% of the Slovenian public voted in a referendum to endorse assisted dying.

## ... AND AROUND THE WORLD (cont.)

### Spain

There has been a lot of media coverage about a man who sought a court injunction to prevent his daughter from having an assisted death. A Barcelona court has now ruled in favour of the daughter who has a mental illness. An assisted death for an individual suffering from mental illness as the underlying illness is possible in Spain.

### Switzerland

All assisted deaths must be preceded by medical and legal investigations. The administrative costs borne by Swiss service providers are high, resulting in increasing frustration for the State no longer wanting to foot the bill for "suicide tourism". Canton Solothurn (about 50kms North of Bern) has now found a way to pass this cost on to people who come to Switzerland from abroad to die. They must be filmed whilst undergoing the assisted dying process. This obviates the need for investigators to intrude on the grieving family.

### United Kingdom

Last year Labour MP Kim Leadbeater introduced the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill*. It was a Private Member's Bill, a Ballot Bill, and was introduced into the House of Commons. Following a landmark Second Reading debate in November, it progressed to Committee Stage in January where a select group of MPs have been scrutinising each line of the Bill whilst considering amendments. The Bill is expected to return to the Commons towards the end of April for further debate and another vote by all MPs. The Bill will then progress to the House of Lords. The major amendment to the Bill has been the inclusion of a clause establishing a VAD Commission. This will authorise a system of expert panels to scrutinise every VAD case. This has resulted in the removal of the extremely contentious requirement for a High Court judge to sign off on all VAD applications. Leadbeater has also provided assurance that the Assisted Dying procedure will be available on the NHS and free at the point of use. In latest news it has been reported that Leadbeater has proposed that the introduction of assisted dying be delayed by a further 2 years. This means that there would be a 4-year implementation phase. This is of great concern to many MPs, as in 2029 the next general election will be held and it is feared that MPs may not want to see assisted dying (which has been a very controversial issue) become operational in the same year. A recent decision by the RCGP to adopt a neutral stance on assisted dying has been greatly welcomed by assisted dying advocates. Prior to the vote, the RCGP had been the only remaining UK medical royal college opposed to assisted dying. An Amendment Paper for the TIA Bill has just been published by the House of Commons in preparation for the Report Stage on April 22.

### Isle of Man

Wonderful news from The Isle of Man, which has made history by becoming the first parliament in the British Isles to pass assisted dying legislation. The Bill, a private member's bill introduced into the House of Keys in 2022, will now be put forward for royal assent. It is likely the legislation will become operative by 2027.

### Jersey

Jersey's parliament is expected to debate a draft assisted dying law later this year.

### Northern Ireland

To avoid any confusion, an announcement was made that Northern Ireland will not be covered by the assisted dying bill before the UK parliament and there are no plans to change the law.

## ... AND AROUND THE WORLD (cont.)

### Scotland

A vote is expected on the *Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill* in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, a group of 20 medical professionals have stated that the assisted dying service is unnecessary as requests to be helped to die are “extremely uncommon” and can almost always be resolved by addressing the person’s underlying distress.

### Uruguay

It is likely that Uruguay’s new parliament will pass a VAD law this year. A Bill was introduced by the President’s left-wing party and backed by others across the political spectrum. In 2020 a survey showed that 82% of Uruguayans approved of VAD becoming a legal end-of-life choice.

### United States

There is a lot going on in the US. MAID has been legal in **Montana** since 2009 but this year the Montanan Senate has introduced an extraordinary bill that may place it under threat. The bill would disallow patient consent as a defence in a case where a doctor has provided MAID. The bill is due to have a public hearing in the House Judiciary Committee.

Pressure is mounting in **Illinois** to introduce MAID legislation as State lawmakers held the first hearing to consider a bill. Recent polling shows that 7 out of 10 likely voters in Illinois want the legislature to pass MAID legislation and 62% of Illinois physicians have stated that they would personally want the option of medical aid in dying if they become terminally ill.

**Rhode Island’s** General Assembly is again considering legislation that would give terminally ill people the option to die using prescribed medication. The legislation hasn’t garnered much support in the past, but it is hoped this year will be different.

The **Connecticut** General Assembly has again decided against considering a bill that would provide a legal avenue for medical aid in dying.

**New Hampshire** has begun to debate an assisted dying bill along the lines of the Oregon model.

**Washington State** has introduced a bill that will allow senior nurses to administer the MAID substance and will shorten the waiting time between the first and second requests.

In **Oregon** a bill to reform MAID legislation has faced significant opposition during a legislative hearing. The bill would reduce the standard waiting period from 15 days to two days and eliminate the need for doctors to sign off, instead allowing two physician assistants or nurse practitioners to do so. Oregon has just released its official VAD data for 2024, with the number of MAID prescriptions up but the number of VAD deaths down slightly from the previous year.

A new Governor in **Delaware** appears to increase the likelihood of an assisted dying bill being passed. A similar bill passed the lower house last year but was vetoed by the then Democratic Governor John Carney.

A MAID Bill has been passed in the **Nevada** Assembly, 23-19, despite the Governor saying he will veto it. The bill still must go through the Senate’s approval before it heads to the Governor’s desk.



# DWDV Board



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## CAN YOU HELP US WITH A DONATION?



We are deeply appreciative of the amazing work done by all our volunteers, but we also rely on the generosity of donors and other benefactors to help us support the right to individual end-of-life choices through voluntary assisted dying, advocate for improvements to current laws and provide support and education for individuals, organisations and communities.

You can do so through our secure online form here: <https://www.dwdv.org.au/donation/>  
(All online donations are processed securely using Stripe.)

Alternatively, contact our office for details to make a payment by direct bank transfer or cheque.

We are a Deductible Recipient Charity, so all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.