

Meet the Young Ambassadors

A new voice for choice



The Young Ambassadors believe that all Australians possess a perspective and an undeniable capacity to effect positive change in even the most complex and sensitive of societal conversations.

The Young Ambassadors is a national initiative of Dying with Dignity Victoria that seeks to provide younger Australians with the information, skills and platforms necessary to champion the cause of end-of-life rights with passion and conviction. Younger people advocating for the choice of Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) is significant for several reasons:

Representation of future generations: Young people will ultimately inherit the policies and societal attitudes surrounding end-of-life care. Their involvement ensures that the voices and concerns of younger demographics are heard and considered in decision-making processes.

Empathy and compassion: We need advocates driven by empathy and compassion to be a voice for the voiceless. Many young people are deeply motivated by the principles of dignity, autonomy, and quality of life.

Challenge to stigma and misconceptions: Younger advocates can play a pivotal role in challenging traditional views, stigma and misconceptions surrounding VAD. By engaging in open and honest dialogue, they can help dispel myths, clarify misconceptions, and foster greater understanding and acceptance of VAD.

Interdisciplinary collaboration: Advocacy for VAD often requires interdisciplinary collaboration, involving individuals from diverse backgrounds such as communications, medicine, law, ethics, and public policy. Younger advocates enrich the dialogue and can inform more holistic approaches to end-of-life care.

Long-term impact and sustainability: Engaging younger generations in advocacy for VAD ensures the long-term sustainability of the movement, laying the groundwork for continued advocacy efforts and societal progress in this critical area for years to come.

In 2025, the number of DWDV Young Ambassadors based in Australia more than doubled, and a group of International Young Ambassadors was established, including members from The Netherlands, Ireland, Iceland, and Canada.

The DWDV Young Ambassadors have taken a bold step in advocating for their vision of a more compassionate and person-centered approach to end-of-life care by releasing a powerful video. By harnessing technology, these young advocates are able to transcend geographic boundaries to reach broad and diverse audiences, and catalyse meaningful change.

Please see the video on our website <https://www.dwdv.org.au>

Who we are

The Young Ambassadors, part of Dying With Dignity Victoria, are young people who are passionate about improving access and quality of end-of-life choices, including VAD.

What we're fighting for

For the voices of young people to be heard on end-of-life care issues

- We want young people and their loved ones to be considered key stakeholders when developing end-of-life care policy.

For all people to have dignity at end-of-life

- We want quality end-of-life care choices that meet our needs, values and preferences, including age appropriate end-of-life care for young people.
- We want equity and accessibility of VAD to improve, including through the removal of the time prognosis requirement, allowing people with cognitive impairment to consent to VAD using an Advance Care Directive and allowing consultations through telehealth.

For people to be empowered at end-of-life through education

- People should have access to clear, comprehensive and non-stigmatising information about end-of-life options, including VAD, and support to plan for end-of-life.
- This requires the removal of the gag clause that impedes conversations between patients and doctors, affirming messaging about the choice of VAD that does not refer to it as suicide or euthanasia, and removing barriers to completing an Advance Care Directive.

How we'll do it

1. Create opportunities to understand the issues affecting young people accessing end-of-life care.
2. Advocate to policy-makers and providers for improvements in end-of-life care services and choices for young people.
3. Inform young people about end-of-life care choices available to them, including VAD.
4. Connect young people navigating end-of-life care, their carers and families to relevant support and services.
5. Encourage young people to have conversations with the important people in their lives regarding their end-of-life care directions, values and preferences and document their wishes in an Advance Care Directive.
6. Grow the number of young people advocating for end-of-life care issues.



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