



respect for the right to choose

Why we need law reform

Despite great advances in medicine, some patients still die in great pain. Others experience profound suffering at the end of life, but are denied the right to choose a medically-assisted, dignified death.

Existing law prohibits this and the Victorian *Medical Treatment Act (1988)* fails to give adequate recognition to living wills (Advance Healthcare Directives). As a consequence, some hopelessly ill patients are denied the legal right to decide for themselves how much pain and suffering they are willing and able to bear.

Public support is substantial: 80% of Australians support a right to choose to die with dignity; just 14% are opposed. **Current inhumane and unjust legislation therefore lags significantly behind the will of the people.**

Physician Assisted Dying (PAD) is already lawful in The Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland and the USA States of Oregon, Washington and Montana. Advance Directives enjoy legal recognition elsewhere, too.

DWDV is a help and law reform organisation. It pursues public policies and laws that enhance self-determination and dignity at the end of life, to give all Victorians a greater say in when and how they die.

DWDV provides referral to private expert counselling but does not assist people to end their lives.

Tel: 03 9877 7677 ■ Web: www.dwdv.org.au
Membership Application Form 09-10-14.doc

Membership Benefits

As a member of DWDV, you receive many benefits including:

1. A legal Enduring Power of Attorney (Medical Treatment) form with full explanatory notes, for the appointment of an agent.
2. A set of Advance Healthcare Directive forms with explanatory notes to assist your appointed agent in decision making.
3. A quarterly newsletter with the latest information.
4. Referral for private expert counselling.
5. Information and advice about your rights under existing legislation and how to take advantage of them under the Victorian health care system.
6. Access to the Society's collection of specialist books and materials.
7. Ability to request a speaker to talk to groups about end-of-life issues and the effect of the Medical Treatment Act.
8. The knowledge you are helping improve end-of-life outcomes for the terminally ill and their families.

DWDV in Action

Lobbying politicians and writing submissions with the aim of achieving law reform to allow medically assisted dying at the request of rational, informed, profoundly suffering adults. ■ **Working** to improve both the legislation and the practical impact of the Medical Treatment Act. ■ **Informing** the general public, professionals and students through media interaction, talking to community groups and sponsoring public lectures and workshops.

How You Can Help

DWDV is a self-funded, non-profit organisation, relying on volunteers, membership fees and donations to continue its work. You can support DWDV by becoming a member: fill in this application form and return it with the appropriate membership fee. Any donation you are also able to make will be gratefully accepted.

Membership Application and Tax Invoice

Dying With Dignity Victoria Inc

Reg No. A0006974B ABN 80 591 186 892

Tel: (03) 9877 7677 E-mail: dwdv@dwdv.org.au

Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms:

E-mail:

Occupation:
 Current Previous/Retired

Postal Address:
..... Postcode:

Phone: (H) (W)

Date: Signature:

■ Mark your membership type (fees include GST if applicable)

Annual Membership

- Single..... \$40
- Family \$60
- Pensioner / student..... \$20

Life Membership

- Single..... \$550
 - Pensioner* \$275
- * Payable in two \$137.50 monthly payments.

✂ Donation (optional, GST-free)..... \$.....

Please make cheque or money order payable to *Dying With Dignity Victoria* or complete below if paying by credit card:

MasterCard VISA American Express

Card No: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiry Date: _____ / _____

Cardholder Name:

Cardholder Signature:

Fax to DWDV on (03) 9877 5077 or post to DWDV at
3/9b Salisbury Ave, Blackburn, Victoria 3130 Australia