

Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2017 (NSW)

The NSW Parliamentary Working Group has worked on the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2017 (NSW) which seeks to establish a right for certain terminally ill persons to request and receive assistance to end their lives voluntarily.

Eligibility

To be eligible to request and receive assistance from a medical practitioner, a patient must:

- Be at least 25 years of age and ordinarily resident in New South Wales,
- Be suffering from a terminal illness which in reasonable medical judgement will result in the death of the patient within 12 months, and
- Be experiencing severe pain, suffering or physical incapacity to an extent deemed unacceptable to the patient.

What are the safeguards?

In order to receive assistance, eligible patients must be assessed by:

- A primary medical practitioner,
- A secondary medical practitioner (who must be a specialist), and
- An independent qualified psychiatrist or psychologist (to confirm the patient is of sound mind, has decision-making capacity, and is making their decision freely and voluntarily and after due consideration).
- A mandatory 48 hour cooling off period applies.
- Judicial review available.

Will doctors be forced to provide assistance?

No. The Bill provides for a right for persons or health care providers to conscientiously object to being involved in the provision of assistance.

Have your say

Any person or organisation can make a submission or provide comment via the voluntaryassisteddying@parliament.nsw.gov.au