



Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBIDGEE

MEDIA RELEASE

Motion passed calling on the ACT Government to explore the issue of loss of capacity in VAD

The ACT Legislative Assembly has this afternoon, passed a motion brought forward by Dr Marisa Paterson MLA calling on the ACT Government to do further work on VAD to address the issue of loss of capacity and explore an appropriate model forward for the ACT. The ACT Government will be required to report back to the ACT Legislative Assembly by the end of May 2025.

This follows the decision made by Dr Paterson not to move amendments to the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill* which passed the Assembly on Wednesday.

During the in-principle debate of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2023*, Dr Marisa Paterson MLA went public with a consultation draft of amendments to address the issue of loss of capacity following the final assessment report. A consultation draft was released to the public and stakeholders and input as sought from 16th May to 29th May.

Significant feedback was received over the consultation period from stakeholders and the community. Dr Paterson states: “The consultation process was incredibly positive, with significant engagement around the issue. What was very clear was the overarching support to address the issue of access to VAD following loss of capacity, however, there was concerns raised over the short timeframe of consultation and issues identified that still need to be worked through.”

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Dr Paterson states “There is a gap in all Australian VAD legislation to date when an individual has gone through all the requests and approval stages to access VAD, and then they lose capacity. I am proud to see the ACT Government will now explore how to address this issue and I look forward to their response”.

STATEMENT ENDS

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