

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING — ANNUAL REPORT —  
COORDINATING PRACTITIONER SUPPORT

1152. Hon Nick Goiran to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Board Western Australia Annual Report 2021–22* that references '[t]he personal impact of voluntary assisted dying on practitioners undertaking this important work' and provides the following quotes on page 7 : *It was hard on me afterwards. My administration went well, he simply went to sleep with no side-effects. But to be at home, simply with family and no other support (because they were a private couple and I respect that) was confronting—hardest thing I have ever done!* Coordinating Practitioner. *The night before an administration is usually not great as I flip from side to side sleeplessly rehearsing scenarios for the day ahead (especially if I have to put in an IV cannula) ... ..A friend of mine who is a midwife and has a lot of involvement in stillbirth, came to see me when she knew I was taking on this work. She gave me a box of trinkets and explained her own way of memorialising the little lives that came into and went out of the world so quickly. So I kept her trinkets and added my own, mainly items from the natural world that remind me, in one way or another, of this person and their importance in my life.* Coordinating Practitioner; and I ask, what supports are available to practitioners who administer VAD substances to cause the death of a patient including mental health supports and counselling, if any?

**Hon Sue Ellery replied:**

There are several supports available to practitioners who administer voluntary assisted dying in WA. This includes peer support through the community of practice; mentorship by the community of practice for new practitioners; support for practitioners provided by the Statewide Care Navigator Service; and debriefing for practitioners provided by the Statewide Care Navigator Service.

In addition, practitioners have access to the following services:

- Doctors' Health Advisory Service WA
- DRS4DRS website
- Nurse & Midwife Support
- Australian College of Nurse Practitioners Peer Support
- GP Support Program

Contacts for support services are outlined in the mandatory training which all practitioners must complete.