

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING — ANNUAL REPORT — ONGOING CARE

1159. Hon Nick Goiran to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to page 29 of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Board Western Australia Annual Report 2021–22* which refers to ‘ongoing care being the most common type of interaction’ for the Statewide Care Navigator Service, and I ask:

- (a) what does this ‘ongoing care’ for patients seeking access to voluntary assisted dying entail given that on page 30 ‘ongoing care’ is differentiated from enquiry/information requests, assistance for patients seeking a practitioner and care coordination; and
- (b) does ‘ongoing care’ include the provision of palliative care?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

- (a) ‘Ongoing care’ refers to the Statewide Care Navigator Service having direct interaction with a patient or family following an initial contact from or with a patient or family.

‘Enquiries or requests’ are often, but not exclusively, initial contacts during which a person seeks to understand the process but may not yet have decided to pursue an assessment or engage with a voluntary assisted dying (VAD) practitioner.

‘Care coordination’ refers to various interactions with people other than the person or their family, such as health care providers, VAD practitioners, aged care providers and other health professional or organisational staff, to facilitate appointments and other logistical arrangements to support a person’s VAD assessment process.

‘Seeking a practitioner’ refers to interactions with potential VAD trained practitioners on behalf of a person wishing to undergo assessment for VAD.
- (b) The Statewide Care Navigator Service does not directly provide palliative care, but advocates for referral to and encourages people to engage with palliative care services for support, if they choose.