

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

661. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I refer to reports of doctors who deal with patients under the recently enacted Victorian voluntary assisted dying legislation being instructed to limit discussions about voluntary assisted dying to face-to-face conversations or risk being prosecuted under commonwealth laws.

- (1) What action has the McGowan government taken to ensure that medical professionals will be able to engage with patients on voluntary assisted dying via telephone or telehealth should the legislation be enacted in WA?
- (2) If no action has been taken, will the Premier confirm that this issue will be resolved before the bill is considered in detail in the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) The legislation is before the house. I heard about this issue on the radio the other day; I think Hon Martin Aldridge raised the matter. Obviously, I will need to seek some specific advice, and the Minister for Health is not here today. However, clearly, we want to work cooperatively on the legislation and we will examine each of the issues. Members will know that Malcolm McCusker, state solicitors and the like will provide some advice, so we will get some advice on that. I would like to work cooperatively with the Leader of the Nationals WA to examine those reports and see if there is any substance to them.