

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING — ANNUAL REPORT — INTERPRETERS

1164. Hon Nick Goiran to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to page 39 of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Board Western Australia Annual Report 2021–22* that states ‘The Voluntary Assisted Dying Board is aware concerns have been raised regarding the wording in the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019* that relates to interpreters, including wording required by the Written Declaration under section 42 which confuses the roles of interpreter and translator. It is recommended that wording in the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019* should be reviewed and revised as appropriate to clarify and more accurately represent the professional responsibilities of an interpreter engaged for the voluntary assisted dying process.’ ;and I ask, what are the differences between the role of an interpreter and the role of a translator in the context of the engagement of an interpreter for the voluntary assisted dying process and as they relate to this recommendation of the Board?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

Section 42 requires an interpreter to certify on the written declaration that they have provided a true and correct translation of any material translated.

The role of an interpreter is to interpret a conversation between two or more people. Interpreters do not translate material, nor do they attest to the truth or correctness of translations. This is the role of a translator.