

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING — ANNUAL REPORT — SUBSTANCE ADMINISTRATION

1158. Hon Nick Goiran to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to page 25 of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Board Western Australia Annual Report 2021–22* that states patient deaths by practitioner administration totalled 147 deaths in the reporting period, while patient deaths by self-administration totalled 43 deaths in the reporting period, and compare this with page 26 which states complications were reported in 2.7% of deaths, or in the deaths of four patients, following practitioner administration. All of these complications were reported following practitioner assisted oral ingestion and related to regurgitation/vomiting, coughing and the length of time for the voluntary assisted dying substance to take effect, I ask:

- (a) where length of time was reported as a complication arising following practitioner administration, what was the length of time between practitioner administration and patient death caused by the administration of the voluntary assisted dying substances in each case;
- (b) all of the complications reported following practitioner administration related to assisted oral ingestion. Given that 43 patients elected to self-administer voluntary assisted dying substances within the reporting period via unassisted oral ingestion or unassisted ingestion via PEG or NG tube, has the Voluntary Assisted Dying Board collected any data or received any feedback from practitioners, family members, friends or Contact Persons about complications that arose following these 43 instances of self-administration via unassisted oral ingestion or unassisted ingestion via PEG or NG tube; and
- (c) of those 43 patients who elected to self-administer voluntary assisted dying substances, what was the period of time that elapsed between the date of the supply of the voluntary assisted dying substance and the date of their death caused by self-administration of the voluntary assisted dying substance?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

- (a) In 2021–22, there was one complication relating to length of time for the substance to take effect. This was reported in the Annual Report as one of the deaths that occurred after more than 60 minutes following administration of a voluntary assisted dying substance. Details will not be provided on this one case due to patient and family confidentiality.

- (b) Yes.

- (c)

Number of days between supply of voluntary assisted dying substance and patient death from self- administration of the voluntary assisted dying substance 2021–22	
Number of days between supply and death	Count of patients
0 days	19
1 day	4
2 days	2
3 days	3
4 days	1
5 days	1
9 days	1
13 days	1
15 days	1
21 days	1
23 days	1
25 days	1
27 days	1
29 days	1
41 days	1
49 days	1
50 days	1

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Hon Nick Goiran; Hon Sue Ellery

107 days	1
115 days	1