

ADVANCE HEALTH DIRECTIVE RESOURCES

Statement by Minister for Health

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Health) [1.23 pm]: I rise to inform the house of the recent launch of revised advance health directive resources. Advance care planning is a voluntary process of planning for future health and personal care and includes recording values, beliefs, preferences and treatment decisions. An advance health directive is a legal document that allows people to document the treatments they consent or do not consent to receiving if they become unable to make or communicate these important decisions themselves in the future. The Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices found that only 7.5 per cent of Western Australia's population had adequately planned the health and personal care they would like to receive. Following a recommendation from the committee, a ministerial expert panel was formed. The expert panel made eight recommendations to government on how more Western Australians could be better educated and engaged with advance care planning. This resulted in a suite of materials that are comprehensive, accessible and user friendly. The new user-friendly resources, which are available on the department's website, include advance care planning guides for consumers and health professionals; brochures, webpages and informative videos; and a guide to support people to complete their advance health directive. These materials will be promoted to the community and to health professionals via traditional and social media, community workshops and health professional education.

There are several documents that enable Western Australians to record and share their treatment preferences and decisions. These include an advance health directive, a values and preferences form and an enduring power of guardianship. I would like to acknowledge my colleague Simon Millman, MLA, the member for Mount Lawley, who chaired the expert panel. I am also pleased to inform members that work is progressing on a statewide central advance health directive register. The register will ensure that these empowering documents will be available to the people who need them, when they need them. The new advance health directive resources will benefit not only Western Australians approaching their end of life, but also anyone who wants to make their treatment decisions, values and beliefs known.