

***VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2021–22***

*Government Response — Statement by Minister for Health*

**MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Health)** [1.31 pm]: I rise to inform members of the house of the government's response to the recommendations of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Board annual report 2021–22*. Under section 155 of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019, the Voluntary Assisted Dying Board is required to provide an annual report on the operation of the act. Data pertaining to the voluntary assisted dying process in Western Australia is held confidentially by the VAD board and the inaugural annual report is the first time that a comprehensive snapshot of voluntary assisted dying in Western Australia has been made publicly available.

The VAD board's inaugural annual report was tabled on 23 November 2022. The report provided six recommendations from the VAD board for the improvement of VAD in Western Australia. Recommendations made by the VAD board include strategies for increasing the number of VAD practitioners available to support patients, amendments to the commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995, remuneration options for providers of VAD services, support for the Western Australian health system to deliver the requirements of the act, and addressing specific areas of the act through the statutory review scheduled for mid-2023. These recommendations from the VAD board are directed at both the state and commonwealth governments. All six recommendations have been supported by the state government. Recommendations 1, 5 and 6 have been supported, while recommendations 2, 3 and 4 have been supported in principle, noting other contingencies, including the requirement for action on behalf of the commonwealth to implement, or policy and implementation issues that need to be considered further. I now table our response to the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Board annual report 2021–22*.

[See paper [1939](#).]