1. The LIV's Essential Role in the Development of Legislation in Victoria

1.1 The LIV plays an essential role in the development of legal policy and legislation in Victoria to ensure laws are clear, consistent and predictable, in line with the rule of law.
1.2 The LIV acknowledges disparate views on voluntary assisted dying within the legal profession, its member base and the broader community.
1.3 The LIV does not have a position on the moral arguments for or against voluntary assisted dying.
1.4 The LIV’s engagement will focus on the development of the legislative framework for voluntary assisted dying, ensuring it is clear and workable.

2. Good Quality End of Life Care

2.1 Medical practitioners responsible for end of life care must provide high-quality care that respects patients’ values and preferences.
2.2 End of life care should start from the presumption that patients have autonomy to make decisions regarding their care.
2.3 Any laws regarding voluntary assisted dying must emphasise a person’s right to make their own decisions about end of life care when they have capacity to do so, free from pressure or undue influence.
2.4 Patients at the end of their life should be able to access high-quality palliative care services. Voluntary assisted dying laws may complement, but must not replace, palliative care services.
2.5 The LIV recognises the need for consistent and clear laws for medical practitioners providing end of life care.
2.6 Should other jurisdictions propose similar legislation, the LIV supports nationally consistent laws to ensure continuity of care and common understanding in this area.

3. LIV Framework on Voluntary Assisted Dying

3.1 In light of the Government’s proposal to enact legislation, the LIV has a role to play to ensure that any such laws, regulations and guidelines are clear, accessible and adequately protect:
   • Vulnerable patients;
   • Doctors acting within the law;
   • Patients, doctors and palliative care workers who do not wish to participate in voluntary assisted dying.
3.2 The LIV recognises the need for access to end of life care through:
• Adequate resourcing of palliative care services;
• Nationally consistent legislation regarding advance care planning and medical treatment decision making, including uniform definitions of capacity;
• Increased community education regarding patients' options for end of life care.