

Media Release

The Hon Harriet Shing MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services
Minister for Water



Friday, 15 May 2026

STRENGTHENING VICTORIA'S PALLIATIVE CARE SYSTEM

The Allan Labor Government is making sure Victorians at the end of their life can live their final days in dignity and comfort.

Minister Shing today launched the new *Victorian Palliative and End of Life Care Framework 2026–2036*.

It will strengthen Victoria's palliative care system so more people can access the compassionate care they need.

The Framework was initially set in 2016 and has been refreshed to set priorities for the system over the next decade.

It includes establishing more accessible care, including in the home, as well as strengthening the workforce and improving care pathways.

It also recognises better coordination is needed between GPs, aged care services, community palliative care providers, and hospitals.

The Framework will help families, carers and patients to navigate the system and to access care and support.

The refreshed Framework was developed by Victoria's first Chief Palliative Care Adviser Professor Mark Boughey.

This work also included extensive consultation with carers, families and the broader sector.

The *Victorian Budget 2026/27* will strengthen community-based palliative care so more Victorians can access care, close to home.

Statewide supports such as the Victorian Palliative Care Advice Service and the Paediatric Palliative Care Program will continue to provide important care for those who need it.

In 2025, Labor also amended Victoria's Voluntary Assisted Dying Act to make it more accessible and fairer.

This work is ensuring Victorians with life limiting illnesses can live out their final moments in dignity and comfort, surrounded by loved ones.

For more information, please visit health.vic.gov.au/end-of-life-care/palliative-care-program.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Health Harriet Shing

"Every Victorian deserves access to compassionate, high-quality end of life care, should they need it."

"This new framework provides a clear path for Victoria's palliative care system over the next decade, and reflects the voices and perspectives of organisations, our health workforce, carers and people with lived experience of our palliative care system."

"We're building a stronger, more responsive, and more caring palliative care system, that brings our health system together, provides better access to care, and improves the provision of services and support."

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