

17 March 2025

Hon. Amber- Jade Sanderson MLA
Minister for Health; Mental Health
5th Floor, Dumas House, 2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

By email: Minister.Sanderson@dpc.wa.gov.au

Dear Minister

**THE AVAILABILITY OF MEDICARE BENEFITS FOR ADVANCE HEALTH DIRECTIVES
AND VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING CONSULTATIONS**

The Law Society of Western Australia continues to represent the legal profession on the Department of Health's Legal Subgroup of the Advance Care Planning Education Reference Group for Health Professionals, as well as having representation on the Community Reference Group (the Reference Groups).

The Law Society has become aware through our involvement on the Reference Groups that there is an apparent reluctance on the part of medical professionals to support patients to prepare their Advance Health Directives due to the amount of time required for the consultation process, and the lack of Medicare Benefit Schedule rebates for those consultations.

The Law Society welcomes your acceptance of all 10 recommendations of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Panel in their recent Report on its review of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019* (WA) (VAD Act). In particular, we note your comments in the media that you are committed to lobbying the Commonwealth Government to introduce Medicare Benefit Schedule rebates for VAD consultations.

The Law Society also seeks your support in lobbying for Medicare Benefit Schedule rebates for consultations for the preparation and review of Advance Health Directives.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the above, please contact Susie Moir, General Manager Advocacy and Professional Development on smoir@lawsocietywa.asn.au or telephone 9324 8600.

Yours sincerely



Gary Mack
President