STAFF SURVEY, PERCEPTIONS OF VAD

St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne

www.cha.org.au
SVHM Process

Response to *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017 (Vic)* at SVHM

- Clinical guideline cost
- Comms strategy

- Policies ratified

- Staff education

- September 2018
- November 2018
- December 2018
- March 2019
- April 2019
- May 2019
- June 2019
- July 2019
- August 2019

- Project Plan
- SVHM VAD WG
- Clinical guideline
- Staff Survey

- Clinical guideline completed
- SVHM intranet site

- Patient information
- Staff information

- Auditing
Staff Perceptions of VAD

Responses received via profession

- Nurses: 47.91
- Medical Staff: 15.51
- Other: 13.42
- Allied Health: 10.93
- Social work: 2.88
- SSA/PSC: 2.39
- Pathology: 1.89
- Pharmacy: 1.39
- Radiographer: 1.19
- Mission: 1
- Psychologist: 0.89
- After hours: 0.4
Staff Perceptions of VAD

Staff knowledge on the term Voluntary Assisted Dying

- 52.81% know something about it, but do not have a very good understanding
- 52.81% have heard about it, but don't have much of an understanding
- 22.97% it's something I have I know something very good about it, but do not understanding
- 22.97% I don't understand at all
- 0.25% never heard of the term
Staff comments

“If St Vincent’s does not support someone who wishes to explore voluntary assisted dying, it would make me feel embarrassed/ashamed to work for an organisation that doesn’t support someone when they need it most”

“How can we have a true patient centred approach to care, if we are going against the patient’s own wishes?”
Staff views on VAD

“I have been asked many times in the last 9 years to assist dying. I am looking forward to assisting people who wish to die voluntarily, instead of watching them suffer despite our absolute best efforts.”

“I respect SVHA for holding true to their values even when it is not politically correct to do so”
Staff views on VAD

“I couldn’t work at a place where this took place. I would refuse to ever be involved in such a practice”
“Stop using emotive text like “assisted suicide” ... its voluntary assisted dying”

“St Vincent’s will use emotive language like assisted suicide. That St Vincent’s will not be helpful or understanding to clients that may want to pursue this service”

“is this legalised murder or advanced palliative care?”
Staff Understanding

“concerns that junior doctors will be responsible for writing orders that junior nurses will be completing”

“I would like to know whether one cannot participate in the practice as a medical practitioner”
Communications

Clarity
Frequency
Channel
Consistency with other Catholic health services