



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Health

In relation to: Voluntary Assisted Dying and VADCCCG consultation

Hearing: 11 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 11-12

Transcript provided: 14 November 2025

Answer Due: 21 November 2025

MS BARRY: Thank you. I exchange real quick, the minister, so she knows what question is coming. When you say you consulted with the multicultural community, can you expand on that for me, please? So who was on the list? How did you approach to community? Just the general work you did on that?

Mr Keene: So the multicultural community was engaged through that group, that voluntary assisted dying community and consumer consultation group. And it had representatives from the ACT government, from the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and provided through that group, through those representatives, they went out more broadly to the multicultural community.

I would have to take on notice exactly who they—

MS BARRY: That would be great.

RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA – The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

The Voluntary Assisted Dying Community and Consumer Consultation Group (VCCCG) provided a forum for community, consumer and non-government sector perspectives to support the development of voluntary assisted dying resources. The Office for Multicultural Affairs represented the multicultural community and consulted with the Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism (the Council). The Council provides a way for Canberra’s multicultural communities to communicate directly with the ACT Government.

The members of the Council were invited to provide their feedback and seek input from the broader community. Individual members of the Council also attended a face-to-face meeting of the VCCCG for specific topics where consultation needed to be provided in person.

In addition to the work of the VCCCG, the Health and Community Services Directorate engaged multicultural communities through:

- Ongoing collaboration with the Multicultural Liaison Officer of the Health Care Consumers Association (HCCA) to discuss and plan engagement and opportunities.
- Presentation at Voluntary Assisted Dying Multicultural Forum co-hosted by Palliative Care ACT, HCCA and Canberra Multicultural Community Forum with more than 65 attendees at the Southern Cross Club, Woden on 19 September 2025.
- *Hello Canberra* radio segment presentation on voluntary assisted dying (Hindi broadcast) on 20 September 2025.
- Meeting with the HCCA multicultural representatives at the ACT Seniors and Better Ageing Expo 24 September 2025.

There is an upcoming presentation to the Indian Senior Citizens Association of the ACT at the Burns Club, Kambah planned for 21 November 2025.

This work built on consultation that occurred during the policy and legislation development phase for the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2024*, which included consultation with the Multicultural Advisory Council. The discussion guides accompanying the discussion paper for the framework were also provided in English, Easy English, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Farsi/Persian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

Date:

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