

Additional document (2) as part of Ian Wood evidence. VAD and 'suicide contagion'.

Email dated 20.11.2021 to A Henskens. MP for Ku-ring-gai from Ian Wood

Dear Mr Henskens MP and staff.

In your speech opposing VAD an initial claim you made was that the House would be voting for euthanasia instead of palliative care. If you read the Bill and the many letters of support for a legal VAD choice you would find this claim is not correct. A vote is to give patients approaching death, with suffering they find intolerable, an additional choice in the manner of their dying, still including the choice of palliative care.

Another of the claims you made was -

Medical journal articles reviewing relevant jurisdictions have found that when societies legalise euthanasia, rates of non-euthanasia suicides go up, not down. That is what has happened in the United States, the Netherlands and Canada, and the early data from Victoria is consistent with an increase.

Can you please provide the evidence for this claim?

My own research finds a different conclusion.

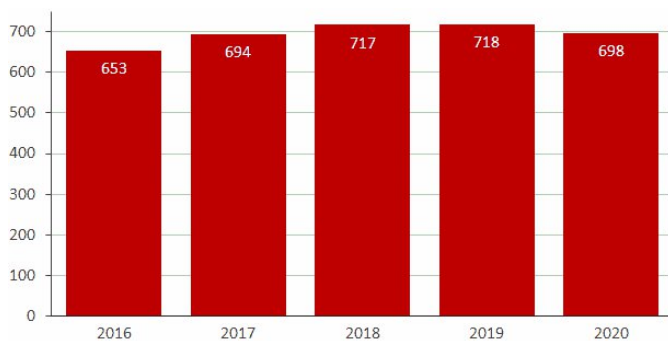
For USA, Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/suicide-mortality/suicide.htm>

State	2005 Suicide Rate/100,000 deaths	2019 Suicide Rate/100,000 deaths
Alaska	19.9	28.5
Oregon	14.9	20.4
Wyoming	17.3	29.3

Yes, Oregon, with a VAD law since 1997, has had an increase in suicides. but nowhere near as marked as Alaska and Wyoming, neither of which have a VAD law. Can you please explain this?

You claim that the early data from Victoria is consistent with an increase in suicide. Can you please provide your evidence for this claim?

My own research finds a different conclusion. Reference: Neil Francis research at <https://www.dyingforchoice.com/blogs/anti-vad-suicide-gaffes-major-embarrassment>



The Victorian coroner's 2021 report into suicides contains data for all years 2016 to 2020 inclusive. See above graph..

