

Madeleine Dowd  
Principal Council Officer  
Upper House Committees  
Legislative Council  
Parliament of New South Wales



Dear Ms Dowd

I am writing in relation to a question I took on notice as a witness to the inquiry of the Standing Committee on Law and Justice at the hearing on 10 December 2021 into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill NSW 2021.

Mr Shoebridge asked me if I was aware of the number of persons who access the assisted dying regime in Oregon State, US. Without direct knowledge of the relevant statistics at the hearing I elected to take this question on notice. I would like to provide to the Committee the following formal response to Mr Shoebridge's question.

Right to Life NSW has researched the number of deaths from assisted dying/assisted suicide in Oregon State and has calculated that on publicly available since the scheme's introduction in 1998 there were 1905 deaths until 2020. In 2020 there were 245 assisted suicides the highest on record under the scheme. The arithmetic average of the increased death rates per year of this period is 15% and the geometric mean is 13%. The number of assisted suicide deaths as a proportion of total deaths of persons over the age of 18 has steadily risen and is now 0.62% of all death in Oregon State for this age cohort.

The data source relied upon is to be found at <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PROVIDERPARTNERRESOURCES/EVALUATIONRESEARCH/DEATHWITHDIGNITYACT/Pages/ar-index.aspx> for assisted suicide deaths <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/VITALSTATISTICS/DEATH/Pages/index.aspx> for deaths in general in the State.

Right to Life NSW hopes that this data is of use to the Committee in its considerations.

Dr Brendan Long  
CEO NSW Right to Life  
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