

ECCV position paper on advance care planning and palliative care

May 2017

ECCV Position

1. ECCV notes the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, Part 2, Human Rights Section 9, Right to Life, which states ‘every person has the right to life and has the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of life’.
2. ECCV notes section 14 of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities that every person has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief.
3. ECCV notes the Victorian’s Government’s end of life and palliative care framework.
4. ECCV notes that culturally, linguistically, and religiously diverse people are often very vulnerable in the context of end of life care due to issues with communicating in English, experiencing social isolation and issues of elder abuse.
5. ECCV states that its constituents have varying views on ‘end of life’ issues.
6. ECCV affirms that each and every individual has with them their unique set of values, morals, and beliefs which will undeniably inform their personal choices and decisions.
7. ECCV upholds people’s rights associated with their diversity and as expressed in indigenous, ethnic, cultural, linguistic, socio-economic diversity; religious, faith, and spiritual diversity; sexual orientation and gender diversity; political views; and age-related diversity.
8. ECCV advocates that implementation of policies and programs in end of life care are based on respect for the person’s values and beliefs; ethical standards; inclusiveness in the design of policy and programs and support for people to exercise their independent choice and control.
9. ECCV further advocates to enable culturally, linguistically, religiously diverse individuals to exercise control and make choices, to the best of their capabilities, in the context of end of life planning, care, and in supporting people’s decision making process.
10. ECCV highlights that no person has the right to persuade or coerce another person into making any choice or decision, and in such circumstances where this may occur or to be perceived to occur the matter should be reported to the Office of the Public Advocate.

11. ECCV is aware of the low rate of decision making and advance care planning amongst people and families from culturally, linguistically, religiously diverse backgrounds.
12. ECCV states that advance care planning is often not a well-known concept amongst culturally, linguistically, and religiously diverse individuals, carers, groups, families, and communities.
13. ECCV advocates for increasing engagement with individuals, carers, families from culturally, linguistically, and religiously diverse communities to increase their understanding and awareness of the concept of advance care planning.
14. ECCV advocates to strengthen initiatives and capacity in ethno-specific, multicultural, faith-based organisations and community organisations more widely, and in local government to help inform people about issues related to advance care planning and when seeking support.
15. ECCV advocates for simple English and translated versions of guidelines, information, and support services related to advance care planning.
16. ECCV advocates for the development of bi-lingual translated advance care planning document templates, in English and other languages.
17. ECCV acknowledges existing good practice in translating to ensure accurateness, quality and cultural appropriateness of translations.
18. ECCV notes that good translating practices includes both information in-language and in English, subject expert assessment of the English text; culturally appropriate information; checking translations with community groups and native speakers.
19. ECCV advocates for an increase in culturally specific and bilingual support services in the context of public health responses in end of life planning and care and in supporting people to make informed decisions.
20. ECCV advocates for improving access for culturally, linguistically, and religiously diverse people to high quality palliative care including support for people and families to access palliative care in their homes.
21. ECCV advocates for increasing engagement with culturally, linguistically, and religiously diverse people and organisations with a view to help protect the rights of vulnerable people and groups and ensure people can communicate their wishes and exercise control and free from abuse.
22. ECCV advocates for community education on advance care planning to culturally, linguistically, and religiously diverse people, groups, and organisations to help people understand the concepts and implications of advance care planning and support informed decision making.