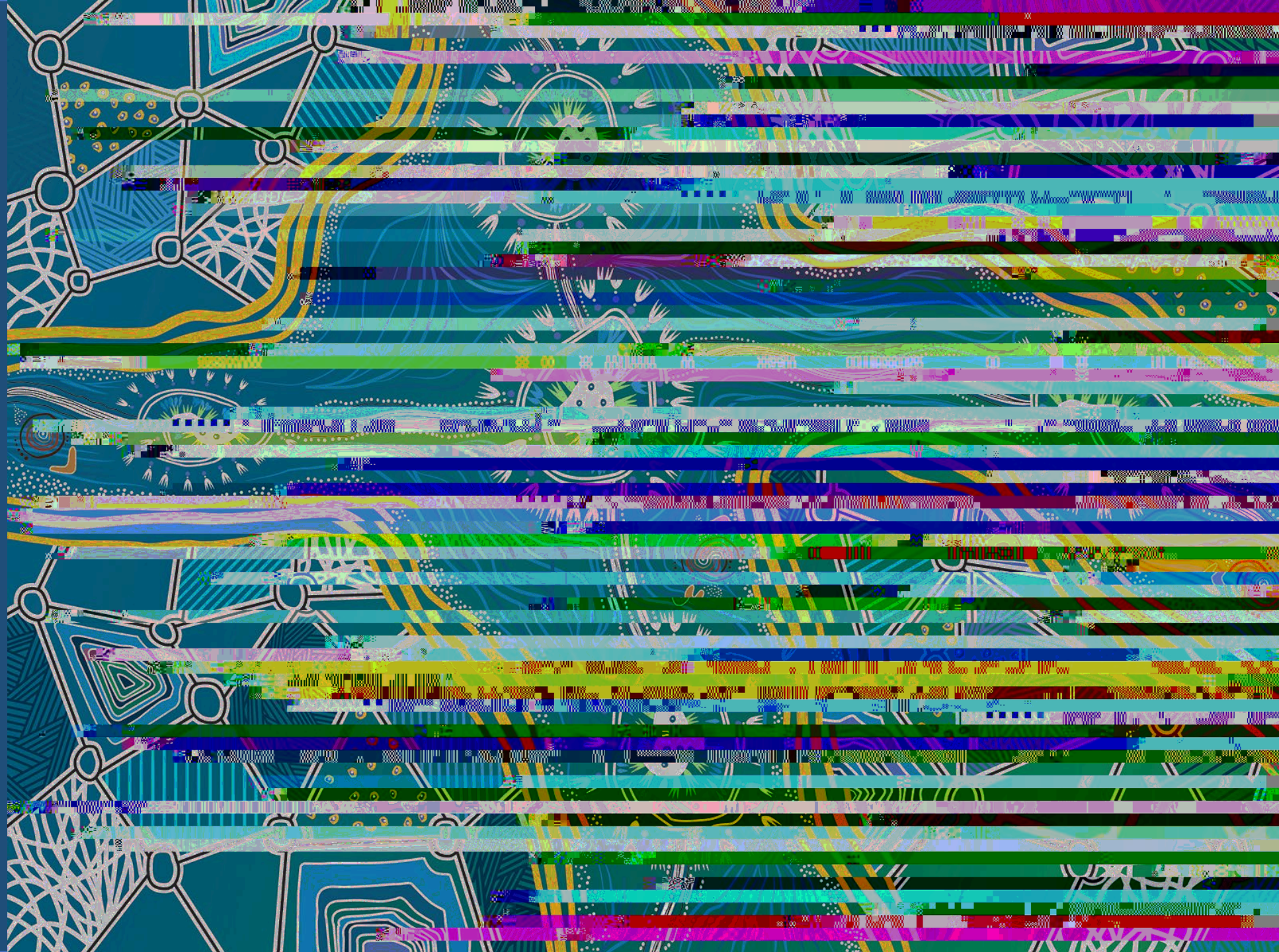
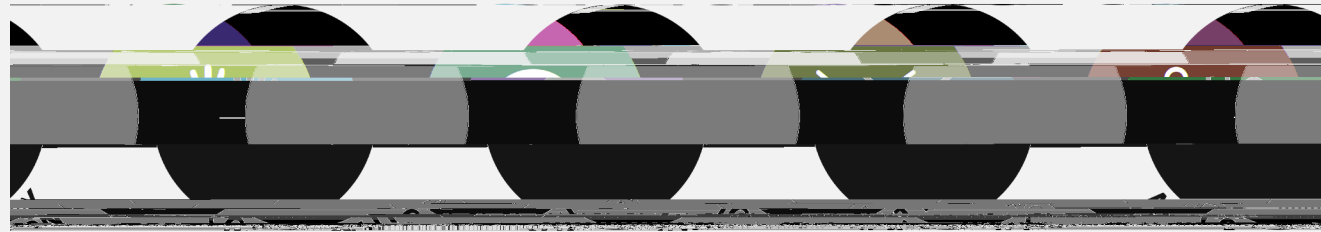


Dr Lea Merone MBChB(Hons) PGCert MPH&TM MSc FAFPHM PhD





OUR VALUES



We acknowledge our Cairns and Hinterland HHS Values of Compassion, Accountability, Respect and Integrity, and take this opportunity to remind everyone





- The assistance provided to an eligible person by a health practitioner to end their life
 - Self administration
 - Practitioner administration
- It is voluntary
 - Autonomy
 - Choice



- Euthanasia is not a legislative power granted to the Federal Government
 - Under Section 51 of the constitution of Australia
- Laws regarding VAD are passed by the state or territory governments

- NT 1995 – Rights of the Terminally Ill Act
 - Repealed 1997

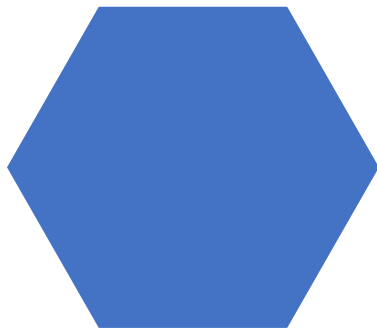
- Euthanasia Laws Act 1997
- Restoring Territory Rights Bill (Assisted Suicide Legislation) 2022



- Legalised:
 - Victoria 2019
 - Western Australia 2021
 - Tasmania 2022
 - Queensland 2023
 - South Australia 2023
 - NSW will come into affect November 2023

Offences (including but not limited to):

- Unauthorised administration of VAD substance (max 14 years in prison)
- Coercion for **or against** VAD – encouraging someone to revoke a request IS an offence nco in



- Working VAD is not a tick-box job
 - We need to think and assess each case individually
 - Significant legal repercussions if we get it wrong



- Human life is of fundamental importance
- Every person has inherent dignity and should be treated with compassion and respect
- A person's autonomy, including in relation to end of life choices should be respected
- Every person approaching end of life should be provided with high quality care and treatment inc palliative care
- Access to VAD should be available regardless of location in QLD
- A person should be supported in making informed end of life choices
- A vulnerable person should be protected from coercion
-

1. Have an **eligible condition**:
 - is advanced, progressive and will cause death, and
 - is expected to cause death within 12 months, and
 - is causing suffering that the person considers to be intolerable
2. Have **decision-making capacity**
3. Be **acting voluntarily and without coercion**
4. Be at least **18 years** of age
5. Fulfil **residency and citizenship requirements**



Mandatory report to the Review Board
at all steps by the relevant practitioner





Registered health practitioners

- Have the right to refuse to participate in any stage of the voluntary assisted dying process
- But they must:
 - 5 Immediately inform the patient of their refusal to participate
 - 5 Give the referring medical practitioner a reason for their refusal
 - 5 Advise of another health who can assist
 - 5 such as QVAD-Support
 - 5 DO NOT OBSTRUCT ACCESS TO VAD

Speech pathologists

- Have the right to refuse to participate in any stage of the voluntary assisted dying process
- But they must:
 - 5 Inform their employer /patient of their conscientious objection
 - 5 Advise of another speech pathologist who can assist
 - 5 Not intentionally prevent someone's access to speech pathology services or VAD

All healthcare workers

- Can conscientiously object to participating in any stage of the VAD process
- Only registered health practitioners and speech pathologists are required to provide information to the patient; however, it is good clinical practice to:
 - 5 Inform their employer and the patient of their objection
 - 5 Ensure the patient's access to treatment or care is not impeded: provide information to enable them to obtain services elsewhere

- Only medical practitioners and nurse practitioners can initiate a discussion if at the same time they inform the person about available:
 - treatment options and likely outcomes
 - palliative care treatment and support options and likely outcomes of that care.

- Prohibition of other health staff initiating a discuss about VAD
- A request must come from the person themselves
- Person needs to make 3 separate requests for VAD
- Must be given information on palliative options, prognosis, disease course
- Waiting period of 9 days ensures request is enduring
- Can change mind at any time
- Criminal offences for persuasion or dissuasion
- Protections for practitioners acting in good faith to provide VAD

Woman found father dead after he took assisted dying drugs meant for someone else, Queensland inquest hears

Man aged in his 80s kept the substance in his home after it was no longer required for another



The
voluntary assisted dying in

