

Polling - Assisted dying in NSW

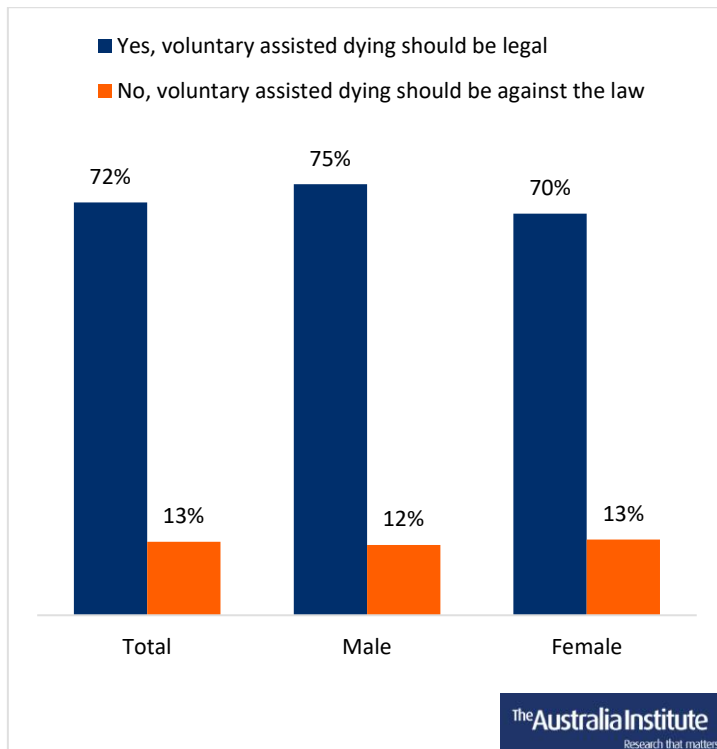
December 2020

Key results

The Australia Institute surveyed a sample of 1,038 New South Wales residents about their position on whether voluntary assisted dying (VAD) should be available to people with terminal illnesses who are experiencing unrelievable suffering and who ask to die.

- Seven in 10 NSW residents (72%) say that voluntary assisted dying should be legal, compared to 13% who say it should not.
 - Three in four Coalition voters (74%) say that voluntary assisted dying should be legal, compared to 14% who say it should not.
- Three in four NSW residents (75%) support the voluntary assisted dying model implemented in Victoria last year, including 44% who strongly support it.
 - Only 13% oppose the model, including 5% who strongly oppose.

Figure 1: Voluntary assisted dying should be legal



- Support for voluntary assisted dying being legal increases somewhat by age, although even among those aged 18–34 69% say VAD should be legal.
- Among all voting intentions, most say that voluntary assisted dying should be legal.
 - 74% of Coalition, 71% of Labor, 77% of Greens, 70% of One Nation and 64% of Independent/Other voters say that VAD should be legal.

Figure 2: Voluntary assisted dying should be legal (age)

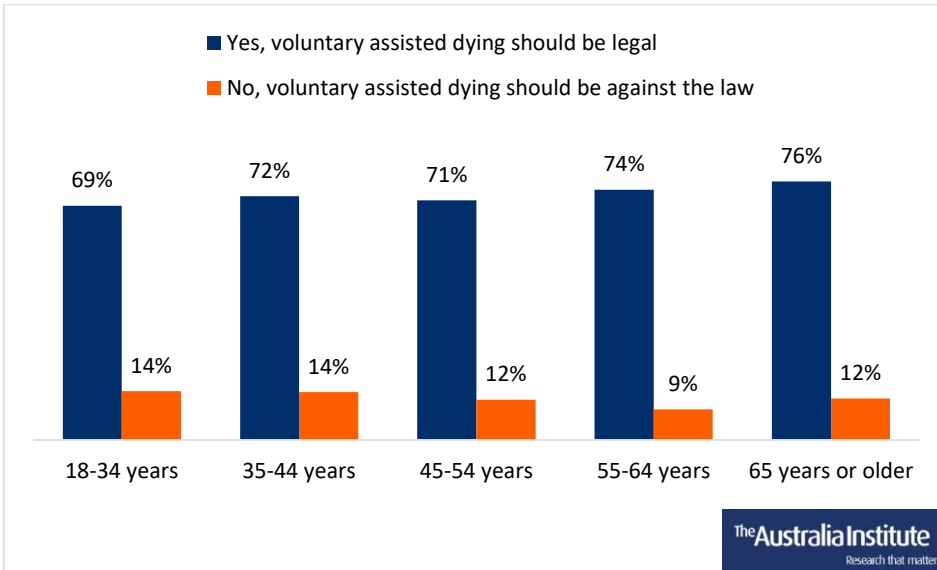
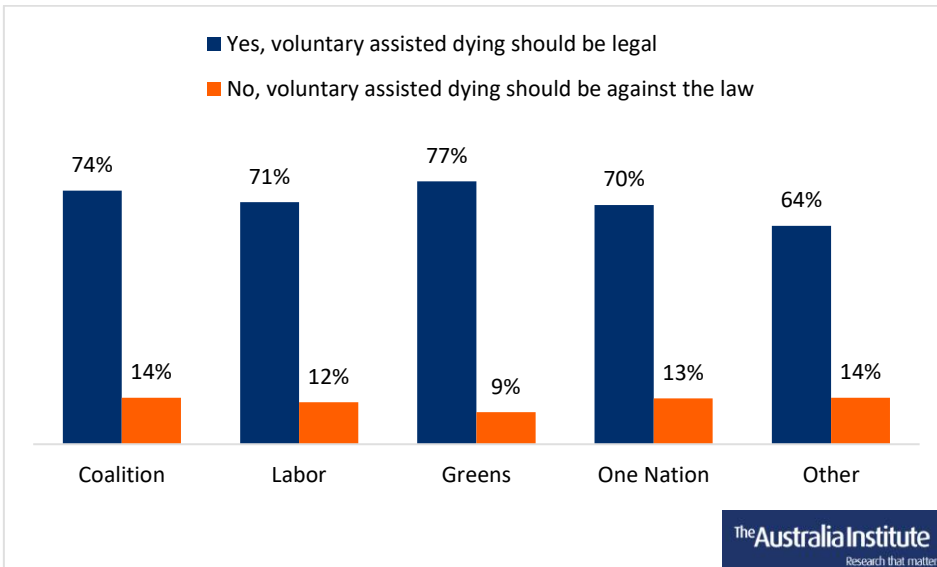


Figure 3: Voluntary assisted dying should be legal (voting intention)



Respondents were also presented with a specific model of voluntary assisted dying: the system that became legal in Victoria last year. In Victoria, adult patients suffering intolerable pain and already dying of a terminal illness are allowed to access a lethal drug which they can use to end their life at a time of their choosing.

- Three in four (75%) of NSW residents support NSW passing similar laws to legalise VAD, including 44% who strongly support.
 - Only 13% of NSW residents oppose NSW passing similar laws, including 5% who strongly oppose.
- Support for VAD laws like those in Victoria is similar across NSW residents of all age groups (73–77%).
- Most Coalition (76%), Labor (76%), Greens (83%), One Nation (73%) and Independent/Other (62%) voters support VAD laws like those in Victoria.

Figure 4: Voluntary assisted dying laws like Victoria’s

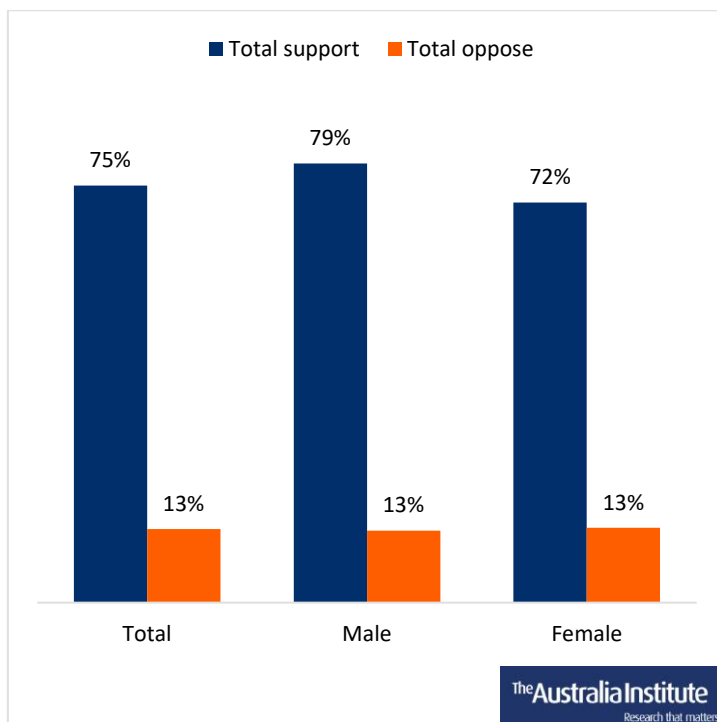


Figure 5: Voluntary assisted dying laws like Victoria's (age)

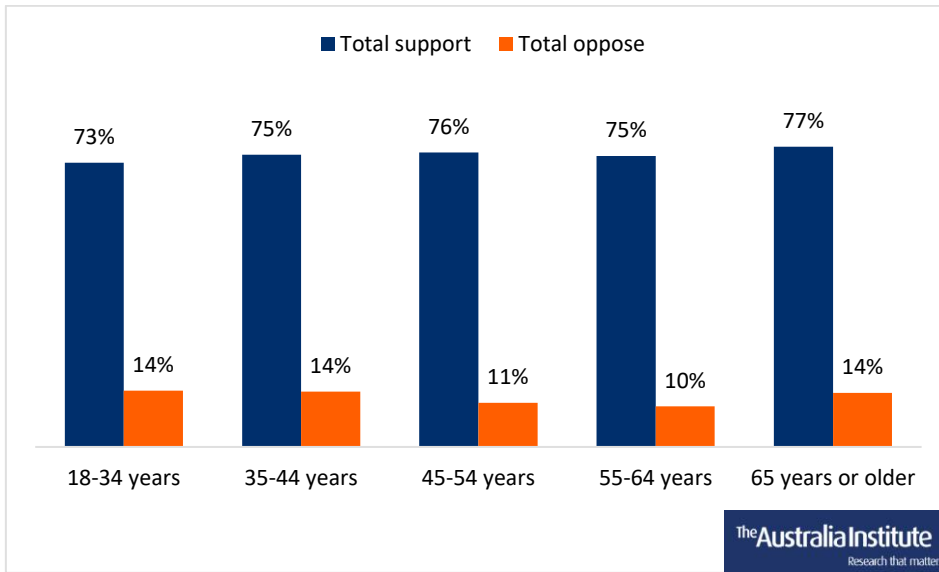
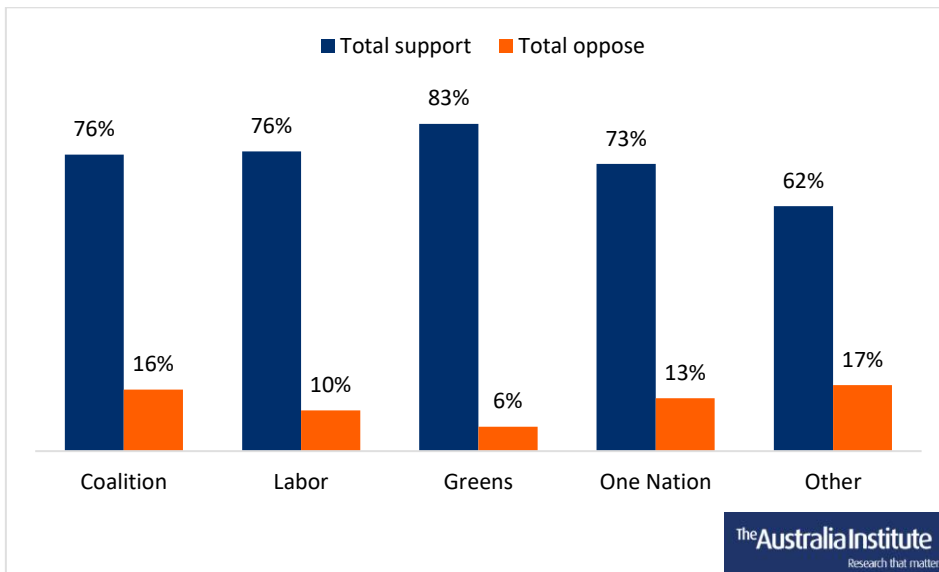


Figure 6: Voluntary assisted dying laws like Victoria's (voting intention)



Method

The Australia Institute surveyed 1,038 NSW residents people between 8 to 16 December 2020, online through Dynata’s Rapid Results polling, with state-wide representative samples by gender and age.

The margin of error (95% confidence level) for the state-level results is 3%.

Voting crosstabs show voting intentions for the NSW Legislative Assembly. Those who were undecided were asked which way they were leaning; these leanings are included in voting intention crosstabs. “Coalition” includes separate responses for Liberal and National. “Other” refers to Independent/Other.

Detailed results

If someone with a terminal illness who is experiencing unrelievable suffering asks to die, should a doctor be allowed to assist them to die?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Yes, voluntary assisted dying should be legal	72%	75%	70%
No, voluntary assisted dying should be against the law	13%	12%	13%
Don't know / Not sure	15%	13%	17%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>18-34 yrs</i>	<i>35-44 yrs</i>	<i>45-54 yrs</i>	<i>55-64 yrs</i>	<i>65+ yrs</i>
Yes, voluntary assisted dying should be legal	72%	69%	72%	71%	74%	76%
No, voluntary assisted dying should be against the law	13%	14%	14%	12%	9%	12%
Don't know / Not sure	15%	16%	14%	17%	17%	11%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Yes, voluntary assisted dying should be legal	72%	74%	71%	77%	70%	64%
No, voluntary assisted dying should be against the law	13%	14%	12%	9%	13%	14%
Don't know / Not sure	15%	12%	17%	14%	16%	22%

Last year, voluntary assisted dying became legal in Victoria, allowing adult patients suffering intolerable pain and already dying of a terminal illness to access a lethal drug which they can use to end their life at a time of their choosing.

Do you support or oppose New South Wales passing similar laws to legalise voluntary assisted dying?

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Strongly support	44%	49%	41%
Support	31%	30%	31%
Oppose	8%	8%	8%
Strongly oppose	5%	5%	5%
Don't know / Not sure	12%	8%	15%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>18-34 yrs</i>	<i>35-44 yrs</i>	<i>45-54 yrs</i>	<i>55-64 yrs</i>	<i>65+ yrs</i>
Strongly support	44%	38%	46%	48%	45%	50%
Support	31%	35%	29%	28%	29%	27%
Oppose	8%	10%	9%	8%	6%	5%
Strongly oppose	5%	4%	5%	4%	4%	9%
Don't know / Not sure	12%	13%	11%	13%	15%	9%

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>One Nation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Strongly support	44%	45%	40%	49%	46%	47%
Support	31%	30%	37%	34%	27%	15%
Oppose	8%	11%	6%	3%	6%	11%
Strongly oppose	5%	5%	5%	3%	7%	6%
Don't know / Not sure	12%	9%	13%	10%	13%	21%