**Guiding principles**

During its discussions the Panel took an approach based on the guiding principles in the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017* (from Victoria) and the Joint Select Committee considerations for promotion of core values in the legislation.

The Panel recognises the importance of consistency with human rights principles including that everyone has the right to meaningfully participate in decisions that affect their lives. The Panel also sought to highlight the importance of privacy and confidentiality. Maintaining a balance between personal autonomy and appropriate safeguards is a central theme throughout these discussions.

The principles adopted for consideration for inclusion in the Bill are:

* Every human life has intrinsic value.
* A person’s autonomy should be respected.
* People have the right to be supported in making informed decisions about their medical treatment, and should be given, in a manner they understand, information about medical treatment options, including comfort and palliative care.
* People approaching the end of life should be provided with high quality care to minimise their suffering and maximise their quality of life.
* A therapeutic relationship between a person and their health practitioner should, wherever possible, be supported and maintained.
* People should be encouraged to openly discuss death and dying and their preferences and values should be encouraged and promoted.
* People should be supported in conversations with their health practitioners, family, carers and community about treatment and care preferences.
* People are entitled to genuine choices regarding their treatment and care.
* People should be supported in their right to privacy and confidentiality regarding their choices about treatment and care preferences.
* People who may be vulnerable should be protected from coercion and abuse in relation to end of life choices and decisions.
* All people, including health practitioners, have the right to be shown respect for their culture, beliefs, values and personal characteristics.

**Questions to consider:**

* Are there other guiding principles that should be considered for the Bill?