Independent Advisory Panel – Citizens' Jury on Assisted Dying



<u>Independent Advisory Panel meeting minutes</u> <u>Tuesday 8th December 2020, 14:00-16:00</u>

Present:

Panel Members Involve Government of Jersey

Gillian Arthur, MBE Lizzie Adams Anna Hamon

Dr Helen Miles Tim Hughes

James Le Feuvre

Michael De La Haye, OBE

Executive Support:

Jade Le Quesne

Apologies:

Ruth Johnson

Agenda

- 1. Review actions from last meeting
- 2. Design Update
- 3. Stakeholder Management Approach
- 4. Speaker Selection reviewing the process for selecting speakers
- 5. Next Advisory Panel Meeting
- 6. AOB

1. Review actions from last meeting

• It was noted that all actions were completed from previous meeting.

2. <u>Design Update</u>

- The panel advised:
 - o Importance of using international 'case studies' to explore the impact of assisted dying legislation in other jurisdictions
 - o Role of mental health needs sufficient consideration within the process
 - Wellbeing, support and signposting needs to be factored into the design of the process in order to adequately support participants
 - Benefits of specific support from subject matter experts on content and design of sessions
 - o Achieving a balance of evidence throughout the Jury process is paramount

3. Stakeholder Management Approach

• It was noted that a meeting was due to be held with key on-Island campaign groups to discuss the Citizens' Jury process in more detail.

Communications considerations

The following document was considered:

https://www.thersa.org/globalassets/projects/psc/innovation-in-democracy/rsa-reporting-on-and-telling-the-story-of-a-citizens-assembly.pdf

- The panel noted the need to differentiate between stakeholders for Jury process, and potential stakeholders for any wider consultation, following the publication of the Jury report and/or debate by the States Assembly
- The panel noted the importance of considering a comprehensive range of stakeholders within the wider process- medical professionals and those working in palliative care, campaign groups, legal professionals, religious and ethical groups, other community groups, the media, Ministers, Scrutiny Panel members, other States members and the public.
- The group discussed the opportunity for observers in the process; it was recommended this is limited to ensure the Jury members are comfortable with the process.
 - o Panel members expressed interest in maintaining their oversight role throughout the process potentially as observers
- Panel members supported plans to set up a webpage to explain the jury process in detail.
 - There should be a FAQs section or similar to address independence, benefits of a Jury vs. Panel or Assembly etc.
 - o It was confirmed that the initial webpage is to be published on gov.je before the end of the year, with updates throughout 2021.
- The panel concluded that it would be wise to advise the media when jury invites were to be sent out.

- The pros and cons about the process taking place via technology were outlined. It was noted that those without suitable devices or internet connection would be supported to participate in the process.
- The challenge of anonymity, especially on a small island, was raised, and agreements regarding the anonymity of participants was noted.

4. Speaker Selection- reviewing the process for selecting speakers

• To be circulated by email and discussed at next meeting.

5. Next Advisory Panel Meeting

- Next meeting to be held mid- January to update on stakeholders.
- A second meeting would take place in late January/early February to further discuss design and content of Jury sessions.

6. AOB

- Two additional meetings were agreed for January.
- The changes to the Terms of Reference were agreed, and it was agreed the document would be published on gov.je