

## Voluntary Assisted Dying Help and Support

Please ask our Registered Nurses if you wish to receive any further information or support.

### Your family and carers.

You do not have to discuss voluntary assisted dying with your family or carers if you do not want to. However, you are encouraged to talk to the people who are important to you. This could be your 'family of choice', those people who are not blood relatives but that play an important part in your life.

### Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Support Service (QVAD Support)

The Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Support Service (QVAD-Support) provides advice and support to Queenslanders about voluntary assisted dying.

QVAD-Support is free for all Queenslanders and is run by care coordinators. Care coordinators are medical, nursing and allied healthcare workers.

From 1 January 2023, you can phone 1800 431 371 and talk to a care coordinator from Monday to Friday (8:30am-4pm) for the cost of a local call.

Email: [QVADSupport@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:QVADSupport@health.qld.gov.au)

### Queensland voluntary assisted dying pharmacy (QVAD-Pharmacy)

Pharmacists employed by QVAD-Pharmacy are the authorised suppliers of the voluntary assisted dying substance in Queensland. They are responsible for managing the supply of the voluntary assisted dying substance. The pharmacists may also dispose of unused substance that has been supplied for self-administration.

QVAD-Pharmacy will provide you, your coordinating doctor, administering doctor or nurse and contact person with information and support regarding the voluntary assisted dying substance including:

- collection
- preparation
- administration
- disposal

Your coordinating doctor will provide more information on QVAD-Pharmacy, including how to contact them if you make a self-

## Voluntary Assisted Dying Resources and Information:

Please visit the Queensland Government Information Page at

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/support/voluntary-assisted-dying/explained>

to access more information about Voluntary Assisted Dying.



## Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD)

## Patient Information



## Voluntary Assisted Dying Explained

Voluntary assisted dying is one of several choices that a person may have at the end of their life. It's important you talk to your doctor at Hospice about all the options available to you.

Voluntary assisted dying is about choice. It gives people who meet eligibility criteria and who are suffering and already dying the option to ask for medical help to end their life. It won't be for everyone.

Voluntary assisted dying is not emergency healthcare. People may take weeks or months to work their way through the process and make the final decision to administer the substance.

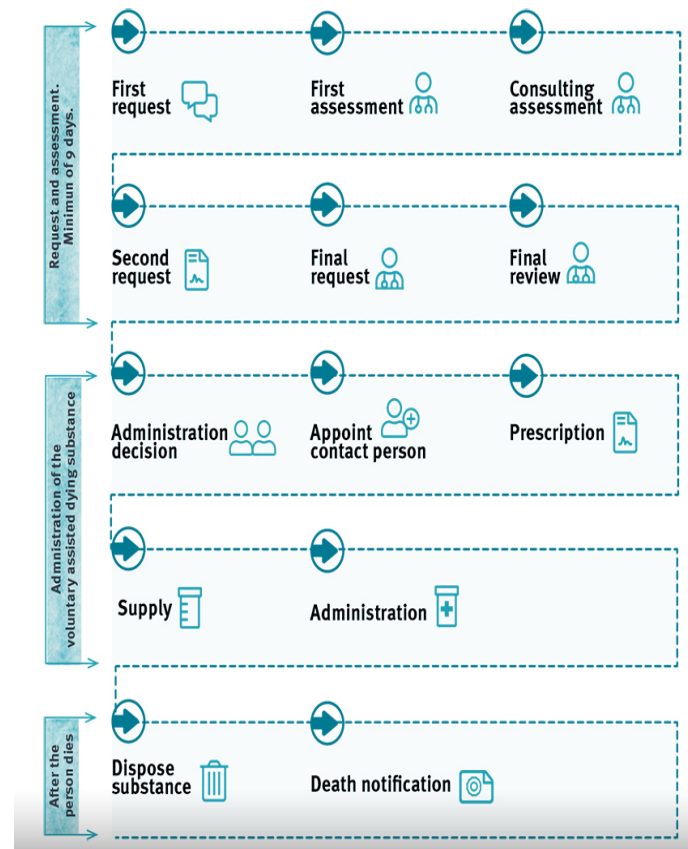
Voluntary assisted dying is voluntary. The law respects the rights of healthcare workers to not provide voluntary assisted dying, while making sure people wanting to access it can do so.

People can stop the voluntary assisted dying process at any point, for any reason. People who are assessed as eligible for voluntary assisted dying may never choose to use it. Sometimes having the substance is comforting in itself.

### Eligibility Criteria:

- An eligible disease, illness or medical condition that is advanced, progressive, and will:
  - Cause death within 12 months
  - Cause suffering that you consider intolerable which may include physical, mental or treatment related suffering
- Have decision making capacity
- Be acting voluntarily and without coercion
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Meet residency and citizenship requirements

### The Process:



### Voluntary Assisted Dying at Ipswich Hospice Care

We respect the legal rights of all Queenslanders to exercise choice and autonomy in decisions regarding voluntary assisted dying.

Not all doctors and nurses will become authorised voluntary assisted dying practitioners that can perform the roles and responsibilities outlined above.

In cases where your treating doctors and nurses are not authorised voluntary assisted dying practitioners, we will assist you to access voluntary assisted dying services and support during office hours between Monday and Friday.

To enable us to do so, we respectfully request you to inform the staff if you are planning to die by voluntary assisted dying.

Privacy will be afforded to all people, their carers, family members, and the healthcare workers supporting them.

### Your Voluntary Assisted Dying Healthcare Team:

Will comprise of a:

**Coordinating doctor** who will be an eligible doctor who has completed mandatory training and been approved as an authorised voluntary assisted dying doctor. They will:

- Coordinate the voluntary assisted dying process
- Be your primary voluntary assisted dying clinical contact
- Receive your first request
- Conduct the first assessment
- Refer you to another doctor for a consulting assessment
- Assist you with making your administration decision
- Prescribe the voluntary assisted dying substance
- Act as your administering doctor (for practitioner administration)

**Consulting doctor** who will be an eligible doctor who has completed mandatory training and has been approved as an authorised voluntary assisted dying doctor. They will:

- Conduct consulting assessments

**Administering doctor or nurse** will only be involved in practitioner administration (not self-administration). As a default, this will be your coordinating doctor. The role can be transferred to another eligible doctor, nurse practitioner or registered nurse who has completed the mandatory training and been approved as an authorised voluntary assisted dying doctor or nurse. They will:

- Administer the voluntary assisted dying substance, dispose of any unused or remaining voluntary assisted dying substance.