

Voluntary Assisted Dying



iMH does not provide voluntary assisted dying services at our hospitals. We know some people may wish to explore this option and we respect their right to choose. If people in our care wish to access voluntary assisted dying, we will support them to do so. For some parts of the process the person may need to be transferred to and from another place, so they can access voluntary assisted dying. We will facilitate this transfer if it is needed and ensure it does not impact the person's care or condition. Privacy will be afforded to all people, their carers, family members, and the healthcare workers supporting them. People accessing voluntary assisted dying will be able to access other medical care and treatment, including psychosocial and spiritual care, at our hospitals.

What is voluntary assisted dying?

Voluntary assisted dying is one of several choices that may be available to someone towards the end of their life. Compassionate end-of-life care includes support and treatment that is respectful of a person's physical, psychological, emotional, social, cultural and spiritual needs and preferences. This care is provided by a range of healthcare workers and includes support for families and carers. Voluntary assisted dying gives people who meet eligibility criteria and who are suffering and dying the option to ask for medical help to end their life.

How does a person access voluntary assisted dying?

A person may raise the issue of voluntary assisted dying with their doctor or other healthcare worker. The doctor or healthcare worker will also let the person know about other treatment and support available to them, such as palliative care. Early conversations with healthcare workers about voluntary assisted dying allow time for careful consideration by the person about what is right for them.

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. If a registered health practitioner is not comfortable discussing voluntary assisted dying, they have a legal obligation to let you know where you can get more information and support.

QVAD Support and Pharmacy Service provides advice and support to Queenslanders about voluntary assisted dying and can help link a person with a voluntary assisted dying doctor. Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Support and Pharmacy Service (QVAD SPS) QVAD SPS is available to support you and answer your questions.

Phone: 1800 431 371

Email: QVADSupport@health.qld.gov.au

Hours of operation: 8.30am to 4pm, Mon to Fri (excluding public holidays)

More information about the voluntary assisted dying process is available on the Queensland Health website: www.health.qld.gov.au/vad.