

# Witness for practitioner administration checklist

## Voluntary assisted dying



This checklist is to help you carry out your role as a witness for practitioner administration for someone accessing voluntary assisted dying.

It outlines the steps you must take and the supporting documents available that can help you in your role. You can ☒ check items off as you complete them.

You do not need to use this checklist if you do not want to. You also do not need to show it to the person accessing voluntary assisted dying or their administering doctor or nurse.

### Step 1: Accepting the role

- ☐ Have a conversation with the person about being their witness for practitioner administration.
- ☐ Read the *Being a witness for practitioner administration* information.
- ☐ Do you understand the role of a witness for practitioner administration? If you have any questions or concerns you can contact the Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Support Service (QVAD-Support) or the person's administering doctor or nurse.
- ☐ Confirm your eligibility to be a witness for practitioner administration:
  - Are you over 18?

### Step 2: Before administration

- ☐ Check that the person appears to be acting voluntarily and without coercion. You will need to certify this in the *Practitioner Administration Form* after the person has died.  
The information in *Being a witness for practitioner administration* may help you do this.
- ☐ Raise any concerns with the person's administering doctor or nurse.

### Step 3: During administration

- ☐ Be present in the room when the administering doctor or nurse administer the voluntary assisted dying substance to the person.



## Step 4: After administration

Fill in the witness section of the *Practitioner Administration Form*.

You will need to certify that:



- the person appeared to be acting voluntarily and without coercion



- the administering doctor or nurse administered the substance to the person in your presence.

## QVAD-Support

QVAD-Support provides advice about voluntary assisted dying.

QVAD-Support is run by care coordinators who are medical, nursing, and allied healthcare workers. You can contact QVAD-Support if you have any questions about your role as a witness for practitioner administration or voluntary assisted dying.

You can talk to a care coordinator Monday to Friday, 8.30am-4pm.

**Phone:** 1800 431 371

**Email:** QVADSupport@health.qld.gov.au

## Support

You do not need to do this on your own and help is available. When someone is dying or has died it can be a very stressful time. Grief is different for everyone. There is no right way to feel when experiencing loss or helping someone through the voluntary assisted dying process. Grief can be complex, and it can also start before someone dies.

If grief or your involvement supporting someone through the voluntary assisted dying process is affecting your physical or mental wellbeing, you might consider speaking to your doctor or another healthcare worker (for example, a psychologist). Asking for help is okay.

## Support services

Call one of the helplines below for support and counselling:

### 24/7 crisis services

- Mental Health Access Line call 1300 64 22 55 (24/7)
- Lifeline call 13 11 14 (24/7 – phone, text, online)
- Suicide Call Back Service call 1300 659 467 (24/7 – phone and online)

### Support services

- Beyond Blue call 1300 22 4636 (24/7 – phone, online)
- Griefline call 1300 845 745 (6am to midnight AEST, 7 days a week)
- Queensland Transcultural Mental Health Centre call 3317 1234 or 1800 188 189 (outside Brisbane) or 1300 64 22 55 (24/7)
- World Wellness Group (multicultural support) call 1300 079 020
- 13YARN (13 92 76) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- For more information and support visit <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/mental-health/help-lines>

## Help in your language



- Multicultural Connect  
Line free hotline number:  
1300 079 020
- Interpreter Service (Help with English): 13 QGOV (13 74 68) and ask for an interpreter
- Translating and Interpreting Service: 13 14 50