

Voluntary assisted dying

This fact sheet provides information for people who ask about voluntary assisted dying.

Voluntary assisted dying is one of several choices that a person may have at the end of their life.

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 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.

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.

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.

Eligibility criteria

There are strict eligibility criteria for accessing voluntary assisted dying. This is one of the safeguards in place to protect vulnerable people.

To access voluntary assisted dying, the person must meet all the eligibility criteria:

1. Have an eligible condition.
 - advanced, progressive, and will cause death
 - expected to cause death within 12 months
 - causing suffering that the person considers to be intolerable.
2. Have decision-making capacity.
3. Be acting voluntarily and without coercion.
4. Be at least 18 years of age.
5. Fulfil residency requirements.

More information

More information about the process is available on the Queensland Health website: health.qld.gov.au/VAD



Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Support Service (QVAD-Support)

QVAD-Support 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)



Support services

Different people will need and want different levels of support. Some people may become upset when reading about voluntary assisted dying. If this has raised distressing issues for you or someone you know, you can call one of the helplines below:

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 www.qld.gov.au/health/mental-health/help-lines.



Help in your language

If you need an interpreter, ask your doctor for one. It is free.

For help reading this information call:

- 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