

# Accessing voluntary assisted dying

## When your doctor refuses your first request

**This fact sheet provides information for people who make a first request to access voluntary assisted dying and their doctor does not accept this request.**

**It has not been created for people who are assessed as ineligible following a first assessment.**

Your doctor can refuse your voluntary assisted dying request because:

- your doctor is not eligible to be a voluntary assisted dying practitioner
- your doctor may have a conscientious objection. This is the right to refuse to provide voluntary assisted dying due to personal reasons or beliefs
- your doctor will not be available to help you through the process, for example, they will be on leave
- are otherwise unable to perform the duties of the role.

Your doctor will tell you the reason for their refusal.

If your doctor is unable to be involved in the voluntary assisted dying process, you can contact the Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Support Service (QVAD-Support). QVAD-Support will help you find a doctor who can consider your request.

### QVAD-Support

QVAD-Support provides advice and support about voluntary assisted dying.

QVAD-Support is free for all Queenslanders and is run by care coordinators who are

medical, nursing and allied healthcare workers.

### QVAD-Support services

Care coordinators provide advice to anyone involved with voluntary assisted dying in Queensland, including:

- people who want to access voluntary assisted dying
- families
- people providing care
- healthcare workers.

QVAD-Support can:

- provide general and specific information about voluntary assisted dying in Queensland
- help you find a willing and eligible voluntary assisted dying doctor or nurse
- help you to access voluntary assisted dying in regional, rural, and remote areas
- help coordinate your care across public and private hospitals, aged care facilities, hospices, GPs and community care.

QVAD-Support does not replace medical consultation or your healthcare team and the services they provide to you. QVAD-Support can only provide assistance with voluntary assisted dying. The service is unable to assist with any other health concerns, including your underlying conditions.

### Location

QVAD-Support is a statewide service. It is available to people and healthcare workers anywhere in Queensland.

### MORE INFORMATION

[health.qld.gov.au/vad](http://health.qld.gov.au/vad)



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## Contact QVAD-Support

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

**Phone:** 1800 431 371

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

## Regional, rural and remote access

QVAD-Access helps people living in regional, rural, and remote parts of the state access voluntary assisted dying. QVAD-Access is a travel subsidiary arrangement that helps people living in regional, rural, and remote parts of the state access voluntary assisted dying, if it is not available locally.

QVAD-Access can:

- help you to travel to a doctor or nurse or for a doctor or nurse to travel to you, to access voluntary assisted dying
- help an interpreter to travel to you if required.

QVAD-Access is managed by QVAD-Support.

## Support services

Different people may 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 <https://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