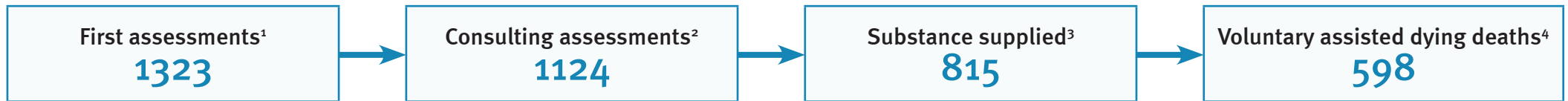
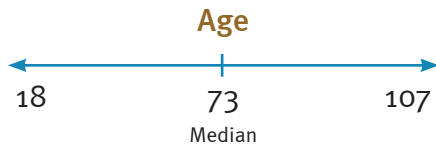


Voluntary assisted dying in Queensland 2023 Summary Report

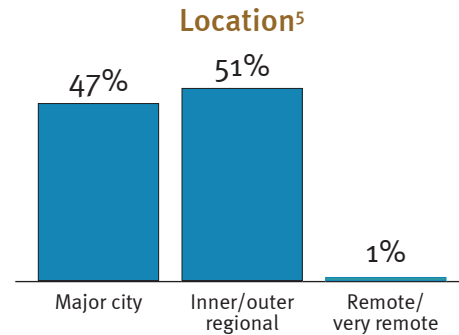


Demographics of people who received a first assessment for voluntary assisted dying (N=1323)



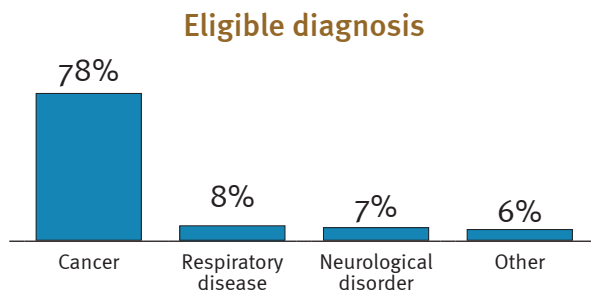
Gender
56% male, 44% female

Palliative care access⁶
76%



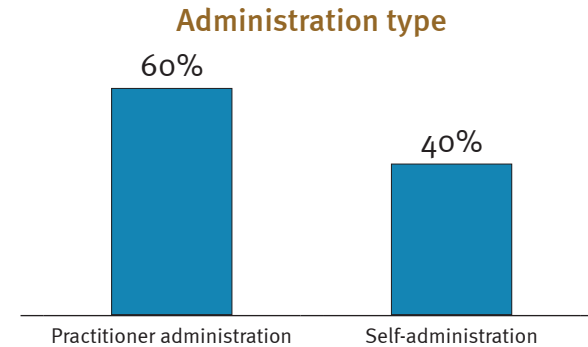
Assessed as ineligible⁷
96

People assessed as eligible for voluntary assisted dying (N=1109)



Withdrew from process⁹
36

Death from administration of a voluntary assisted dying substance (N=598)



Voluntary assisted dying accounted for 1.6% of all deaths in Queensland in 2023⁸

Authorised practitioners



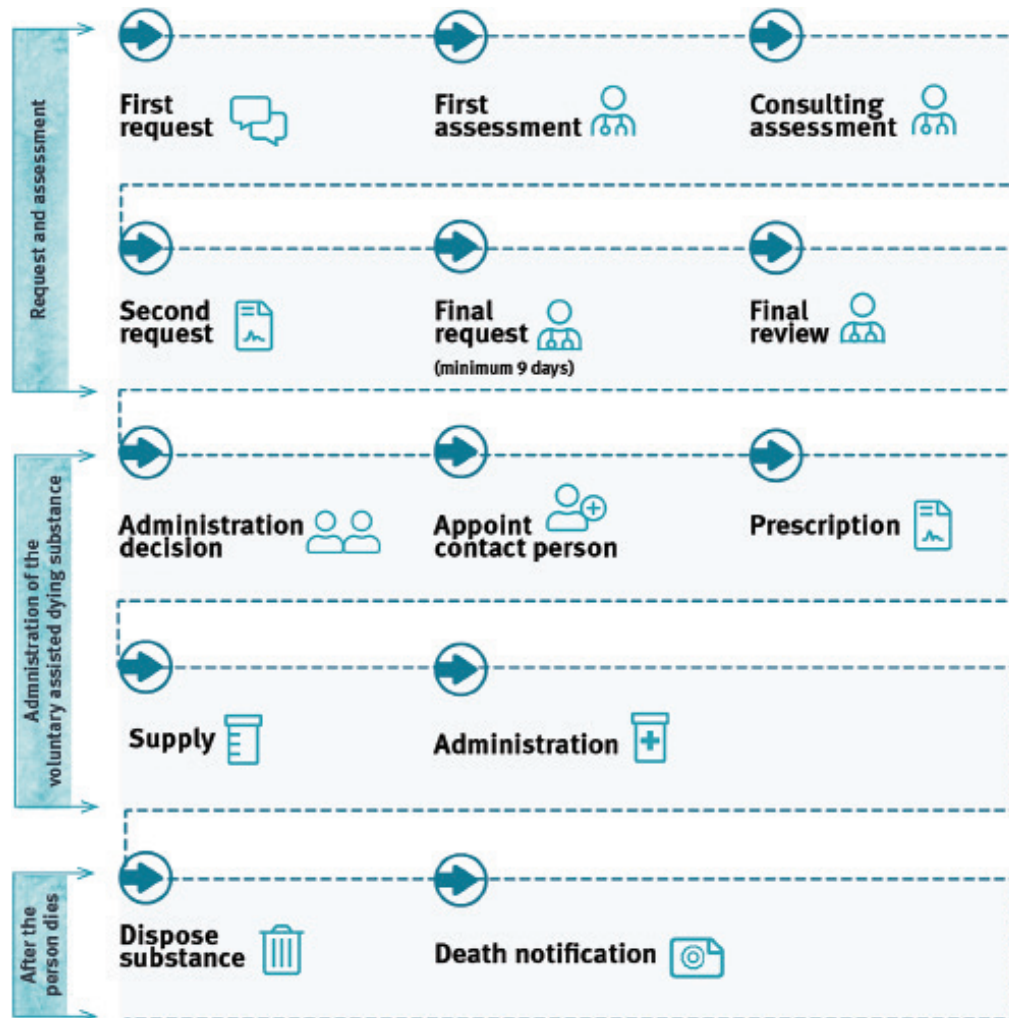
Authorised practitioners¹⁰
361

Medical practitioners: 183
Nurse practitioners: 20
Registered nurses: 158

Voluntary assisted dying in Queensland

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The voluntary assisted dying process: an overview:



Resources:

- Information for consumers
<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/support/voluntary-assisted-dying>
- Information for healthcare workers
<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/voluntaryassisted-dying>
- Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Support and Pharmacy Service
<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/voluntaryassisted-dying/support/qvad-support>
- Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board
<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/voluntaryassisted-dying/review-board/about>

Key contacts:

QVAD Support and Pharmacy Service

Phone: 1800 431 371

Email: QVADSupport@health.qld.gov.au

Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board

Email: VADReviewBoard@health.qld.gov.au

Support services

- Mental Health Access Line: 1300 64 22 55 (24/7)
- Lifeline: 13 11 14 (24/7)
- Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636 (24/7)
- Griefline: 1300 845 745 (8am to 8pm AEST, Monday to Friday)
- 13YARN for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples: 13 92 76

For more information and support visit:
www.qld.gov.au/health/mental-health/help-lines

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Notes:

Please note that the current report is a summary of activity and demographics related to people who completed a step in the voluntary assisted dying process within the 12-month period ending 31 December 2023. Accordingly, people who commenced the process in 2023 may be continuing through the process in 2024. Detailed Information about activity within the 6-month period from 1 January to 30 June 2023 can be found in the inaugural Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board Annual Report 2022–2023: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/researchreports/reports/departamental/voluntary-assisted-dying-review-board-annual-report>.

- 1. First assessment:** Number of first assessments completed between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023.
- 2. Consulting assessment:** Number of consulting assessments completed between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023. A person who has a first assessment may not go on to have a consulting assessment if they are found ineligible, withdraw from the process, or die from their underlying condition or an unrelated condition.
More information: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/support/voluntary-assisted-dying/explained/process>
- 3. Substance supplied:** Number of voluntary assisted dying substances supplied to either the person requesting voluntary assisted dying or their administering practitioner between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023. There may be more than one substance supplied per voluntary assisted dying request if the person changes their administration decision or if a substance expires.
More information: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/voluntary-assisted-dying/voluntary-assisted-dying-substances>
- 4. Voluntary assisted dying deaths:** Number of people who have died following self-administration or practitioner administration of a voluntary assisted dying substance. This number does not include those who have started the voluntary assisted dying process and died without administration of the voluntary assisted dying substance.
- 5. Location:** Location of people who have had a first assessment. The percentage breakdown does not equal 100% as there is a small percentage of persons who provided an address outside of Queensland on the first assessment. People accessing voluntary assisted dying must meet all eligibility criteria, including Queensland residency requirements. People living outside of Queensland may apply for an exemption. The location is categorised by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard Remoteness Structure classes of remoteness: Major Cities, Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote.
More information: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs-edition-3/jul2021-jun2026/remoteness-structure>
- 6. Palliative care access:** Proportion of persons who advised during a first assessment they are currently accessing or have previously accessed palliative care.
- 7. Assessed as ineligible:** Number of people who did not meet the eligibility criteria during a first assessment or a consulting assessment.
More information: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/support/voluntary-assisted-dying/explained/eligibility-criteria>
More information: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/support/voluntary-assisted-dying/ineligible/assessed-as-ineligible>
- 8. Percentage of deaths:** Voluntary assisted dying deaths as a proportion of all deaths in Queensland in 2023. The total number of deaths is taken from Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages – 2023 Statistics.
More information: <https://www.qld.gov.au/law/births-deaths-marriages-and-divorces/data-and-statistics/life-event-statistics>
- 9. Withdrawn:** Number of people who made a first request for voluntary assisted dying, decided not to continue with the process during the request and assessment stage (i.e. before the substance is supplied) and have formally withdrawn from the process.
- 10. Authorised practitioners:** Medical practitioners, nurse practitioners and registered nurses who have been authorised by the Queensland Health Chief Medical Officer to provide voluntary assisted dying services as a coordinating, consulting or administering practitioner. Authorised practitioners must meet eligibility requirements and complete and pass the voluntary assisted dying mandatory training before being authorised.
More information: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/voluntary-assisted-dying/authorised-practitioners/becoming-vad-practitioner>