

Voluntary Assisted Dying Interim Statement

The Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021 (the Act) was passed in September 2021. It is available to eligible Queenslanders from 1 January 2023.

The Friendly Society Private Hospital (FSPH) at present, does not provide voluntary assisted dying services at our facility.

We will be commencing on a consultation process with our clinicians regarding the provision of a Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) service in the future.

In the meantime, if patient or consumer expresses a wish to explore this option, we will respect their right to do so.

If any patient or consumer wishes to initiate a first conversation about voluntary assisted dying, FSPH staff will engage in a sensitive, open and respectful manner, and provide information to the patient /consumer on how to access the Queensland voluntary assisted dying support service: QVAD-Support.

The person wishing to commence steps in the VAD process may need to be transferred to another facility to enable access to an established voluntary assisted dying program. The FSPH will facilitate any transfers needed and ensure that the choice a patient / consumer makes does not impact on the care and support that they need.

Privacy will be afforded to all those requesting information on VAD, their carers, family members, and the healthcare workers supporting them.

Patients / consumers wishing to access VAD will be able to continue to access other medical care and treatment, including psychosocial and spiritual care, at our facility.

For more information about voluntary assisted dying in Queensland, including the contact details for the Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Support Service, visit [Voluntary assisted dying | Queensland Health](#) .

What is voluntary assisted dying (VAD)?

The Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021 (the Act) was passed in September 2021. It will be available to eligible Queenslanders from 1 January 2023.

Voluntary assisted dying is an additional end-of-life choice that gives eligible people who are suffering and dying the option of asking for medical assistance to end their lives. There are strict eligibility criteria for accessing voluntary assisted dying. [The eligibility criteria | Voluntary assisted dying | Queensland Health](#)

How can I find out information about VAD?

Queensland Government have a support service (QVAD – Support) commencing 1 January 2023, Monday to Friday (0830-1600hrs)

Telephone: 1800 431 371

Email: QVADSupport@health.qld.gov.au

Further information available here [Voluntary assisted dying | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

Where can I go for help and support?

Visit [Help and support | Voluntary assisted dying | Queensland Health](#) for further information.

References

Queensland Government (2022) Private entity guidance—voluntary assisted dying 1.0 State of Queensland (Queensland Health) [Voluntary assisted dying | Queensland Health](#)