



Voluntary Assisted Dying and Residential Aged Care

From the 19th of June 2019 the Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) Act 2017 becomes law.

Are you ready?

Every health service and aged care facility in Victoria needs to ensure they have policies, procedures and processes in place to comply with the legislation.

Organisations should start by asking themselves these questions:

- Where does *your* facility stand in relation to VAD?
 - There are three options of support for health care services to adopt, including [Pathway A, B or C](#). It is presumed that aged care services will adopt either Pathway B or C.

What option are you taking?

- Who is/will be [eligible](#) to request VAD?
- What will be *your* response be to the residents who request VAD but are not eligible?
- Have *you* developed written policies and procedures?
 - How will these be made available to staff?
 - How can staff conscientiously abstain?
- If a resident chooses to proceed with VAD, how are the medications going to be stored onsite?

For more detailed information on medication storage and usage, email [EndofLifeCare \(DHHS\)](#) and request a hard copy of **Voluntary assisted dying - Managing access in health services**. This document cannot be sent via email or fax **and MUST NOT be copied and emailed for distribution**.

- How prepared are *your* staff to have these conversations or respond to the question?
 - What training have *you* developed/organised?

Resources

- The Victorian Department of Health has produced a range of guides and resources to assist consumers and facilities to comply with the legislation. The [Aged Care Guide](#) has been developed to assist providers and includes an overview of the three options of support available.
- Additional information is available from the Department of Health [Voluntary Assisted Dying](#) web page.

This web page provides an overview of VAD, including eligibility criteria and the process for requesting and performing VAD, for:

- [Consumers](#)
- [Health Practitioners](#)
- [Health Services](#)

It is **critical** that Executives, Facility Managers and Clinical Managers read the consumer information in order to be prepared for the questions they may be asked. It is also critical for services to be prepared to be compliant with legislation

Refer to: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au>

It is Important to Remember:

Under NO circumstances can a health professional advertise VAD or raise the topic with a resident or relative ... however they must respond appropriately when asked a question about it.