

Background

Voluntary assisted dying (VAD) is regulated by the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021 (Qld) (the Act). Applies throughout Queensland from January 1st, 2023.

The Charter of Aged Care Rights directs that residents have the right to make decisions about their care, including decisions about their end-of-life care. This includes the right to access VAD in the states/territories where it is legal and where the resident meets the legislated eligibility criteria.

Definition

The main purpose of the VAD is to:

- (a) Give persons who are suffering and dying and who meet the eligible criteria, the option of requesting medical assistance to end their lives; and
- (b) To establish a lawful process for eligible persons to end their life.

Policy Statement

After careful consideration by our Governing Council and CEO, The Good Shepherd Home has decided not to participate in the VAD process.

The Good Shepherd Home respects and supports residents' choices in accessing VAD. A resident expressly choosing to access VAD will be advised how to contact a QVAD Support Care Coordinator so as to obtain information about VAD.

It is our policy that:

- We will respond in a legal and ethical manner to any resident expressly choosing to access VAD.
- Residents are treated with dignity and respect in relation to their choices to access VAD.
- Residents have their spiritual, cultural and psychosocial needs respected and fulfilled.
- Where a transfer to another facility is required, the Home will support the resident and their family and support people to transition to an appropriate facility.