Accessing voluntary assisted dying in Western Australia

What is the Statewide Voluntary Assisted Dying Care Navigator Service?

Summary

This information sheet is for people who want to know more about the Statewide Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) Care Navigator Service. It provides an overview of the service which can be accessed when voluntary assisted dying becomes a legal option in Western Australia (WA) from 1 July 2021.

Key points include:

- The Statewide VAD Care Navigator Service has been specifically established to support anyone involved with voluntary assisted dying in WA including healthcare workers, service providers, patients and members of the community.
- The service will be staffed by Care Navigators who are experienced health professionals. They will be based with a metropolitan hospital but will be accessible to all Western Australians.
- The Statewide VAD Care Navigator Service will be available to provide information, advice or assistance to patients and members of the community from 1 July 2021.

What does the Statewide VAD Care Navigator Service do?

From 1 July 2021, eligible Western Australians at end-of-life will be able to legally access voluntary assisted dying. The Statewide VAD Care Navigator Service has been specifically established to support anyone involved with voluntary assisted dying in WA. This includes health professionals, service providers, patients and members of the community. The service will be nurse-led and staffed by Care Navigators who are experienced health professionals.

The Care Navigators will be able to:

- provide general information about voluntary assisted dying
- provide specific information about the voluntary assisted dying process in WA
- help to locate a medical practitioner (doctor) who is willing and eligible to participate
- assist eligible people to access regional support packages
- link to helpful resources

Where is the Statewide VAD Care Navigator Service?

The service will be based with a metropolitan hospital. While the Care Navigators will be based in the Perth metropolitan area, the service is a statewide service. This means that the Care Navigators will be available to support all Western Australians who are seeking information about, or access to, voluntary assisted dying, no matter where they live.
Regional Access Support Scheme (RASS)

The Care Navigators will also manage the Regional Access Support Scheme (RASS). This means that if you live outside of the metropolitan region and are not able to access a medical practitioner in your local area, the Care Navigators may be able to support you through the RASS. This scheme can assist you to travel to a medical practitioner to access voluntary assisted dying or, if you are unable to travel, it can support a medical practitioner to travel to you.

How can I contact the Statewide VAD Care Navigator Service?

Contact details for the Statewide VAD Care Navigator Service will be available from 1 July 2021.

Glossary of terms

Refer to Accessing voluntary assisted dying in Western Australia - Glossary of terms for explanations of key terms used within this information sheet.

Acknowledgement

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