Accessing voluntary assisted dying in Western Australia

What is the WA Voluntary Assisted Dying Statewide Pharmacy Service?

Summary

This information sheet is for people who want to know more about the WA Voluntary Assisted Dying Statewide Pharmacy Service (SWPS). This information sheet provides an overview of the service which will have a key role when voluntary assisted dying becomes a legal option in Western Australia (WA) from 1 July 2021.

Key points include:

- Voluntary assisted dying allows an eligible person to legally access medication that will cause their death. This medication is called the voluntary assisted dying substance.
- The SWPS has been specifically established to make sure that the voluntary assisted dying substance is provided in a safe, equitable, and patient-centred manner.
- The service will be staffed by qualified pharmacists who are experienced health practitioners. They will be based at a metropolitan tertiary hospital but the SWPS will be accessible to all Western Australians who access the voluntary assisted dying process.

What is the role of the WA Voluntary Assisted Dying Statewide Pharmacy Service?

Voluntary assisted dying will become an option for eligible Western Australians at end-of-life from 1 July 2021. Voluntary assisted dying allows an eligible person to legally access medication that will cause their death. This medication is called the voluntary assisted dying substance.

The SWPS has been specifically established to make sure that the voluntary assisted dying substance is provided in a safe, equitable, and patient-centred manner.

The service will be staffed by qualified pharmacists who are experienced health professionals. The pharmacists at the SWPS will be able to:

- Liaise with medical practitioners (doctors) and nurse practitioners who are supporting someone through the voluntary assisted dying process.
- Dispense the voluntary assisted dying substance and supportive medications.
- Provide information, education and support to a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, or person accessing the voluntary assisted dying process.
- Liaise with Authorised Disposers regarding disposal of any unused or remaining voluntary assisted dying substance and supportive medications.

Where is the Voluntary Assisted Dying Statewide Pharmacy Service?

The service will be based at a metropolitan tertiary hospital. While the SWPS will be based in the Perth...
metropolitan area, **the service is a statewide service.** This means that the SWPS will be available to all Western Australians who are seeking access to voluntary assisted dying, no matter where they live. If required, the SWPS will be able to visit a patient or practitioner anywhere in WA to provide the voluntary assisted dying substance and education about the substance.

**How can I contact the WA Statewide Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy Service?**

Contact details for the SWPS 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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