

The Forrest Centre Position Statement on Voluntary Assisted Dying

OVERVIEW

The Forrest Centre recognises the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2022 (NSW) (the Act) as the regulatory legislation governing voluntary assisting dying (VAD) in New South Wales. This legislation allows eligible persons to request medical assistance to end their life under particular stringent circumstances.

The Forrest Centre was founded and is owned by the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary and the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn. As such our Mission, Vision and Values reflect the faith based Christian traditions and beliefs of compassionate and holistic care.

We are committed to providing life-affirming care including palliative support to each person's physical and spiritual wellbeing.

The Forrest Centre recognises the Act and understands the VAD process is a thorough, detailed procedure. We are committed to caring for residents, clients and their families with empathy and respect in all situations. Our number one priority is the wellbeing of those we care for.

From these guiding beliefs we have developed these principles in relation to VAD:

- All human life has value, dignity and worth.
- We will always focus on our provision of professional, clinical and compassionate palliative care to those we care for, as well as spiritual support for them and their loved ones.
- We will comply with the Act as a non-participating private entity. As such we will not hinder access to information on VAD and remain compliant with all legislation and NSW Health guidance on VAD.
- We will not, nor will our staff, participate in the VAD process.
- Our residents and clients will not be impeded should they choose to make use of the Act.

RESIDENT AND CLIENT INFORMATION

All residents and clients will be given information on The Forrest Centre's position on VAD prior to entering an agreement to provide services. This shall include our status as a non-participating private entity, our commitment to palliative care, our obligation to remain compliant and not impede the flow of information and our use of NSW Health resources to fulfil that obligation.

The Forrest Centre will also publish our position on VAD on our website.

GUIDANCE

As a non-participating private entity, The Forrest Centre will take guidance on VAD from NSW Health guidelines and resources.

Should a resident or client make enquiries on VAD we will refer to:

- NSW Health Voluntary Assisted Dying Private Entity Guidance,
- NSW Health Voluntary Assisted Dying Care Navigator Service,
- Other relevant guidance as required.

STAFF EDUCATION

The Forrest Centre acknowledges all staff's right to conscientiously object to participating in the VAD process.

Staff will also not initiate conversations on VAD with residents or clients, nor will they promote use of the VAD process.

Should a resident or client request information or initiate a discussion with a staff member on VAD, staff should immediately refer to The Forrest Centre's VAD Officer. This position is filled by the Executive Manager – Care and can be referred to through the appropriate service stream manager.

RESOURCES

[Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2022](#)

[NSW Voluntary Assisted Dying Private Entity Guidance](#)

[NSW Voluntary Assisted Dying Care Navigator Service](#)