



LEGACY BRISBANE POLICY

LEGACY BRISBANE VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

Policy number: CS-G14

Effective date: 28.07.2025

Approving authority: Chief Executive Officer

Sponsor: Community Services Manager

Web address: <https://legatee.guide/>

Date for review: 28.07.2028

Version History

Date	Description of Change	Version
28.07.2025	Initial release	1.0

Purpose	Legacy Brisbane provides support to families of deceased and incapacitated veterans. There may be limited occasions when a terminally unwell beneficiary decides to investigate whether Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) is right for them. The Parliament of Queensland passed the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021 (Qld) in September 2021. The Act allows eligible people the choice to access VAD in Queensland from 1 January 2023.
Scope	The policy covers beneficiaries who would like to learn more about the VAD scheme.
Who should read this policy?	This policy applies to any employee whether permanent, fixed term, temporary, full-time, part-time, or casual or any Legatees who are supporting beneficiaries who express an interest in VAD.
Eligibility for Voluntary Assisted Dying	VAD is an additional voluntary end-of-life choice for people who have an advanced and progressive disease, illness, or medical condition that is expected to cause their death within 12 months. It gives people who meet the eligibility criteria and option to ask for medical help to end their life. Healthcare workers have a right not to provide VAD, however they must ensure people wanting to access it know how to do so. The Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021 states that to be eligible for VAD a person must have: a) An eligible disease, illness or medical condition – one that is advanced, progressive and will cause death within 12 months and is causing intolerable physical or mental health suffering. The suffering can be caused by treatment provided for the disease, illness or medical condition. People who meet this criterion and refuse medical treatment or symptom management are considered eligible. and b) Have decision-making capacity and c) Be acting voluntarily and without coercion and d) Be at least 18 years of age and e) Meet residency and citizenship requirements All legal steps and a strict screening process must be followed for voluntary assisted dying to happen. If approved, this will allow them to be given a medication to bring about their death at a time and place that they choose. There are two administration methods: self-administration (the person administers the substance themselves; or practitioner administer (the person chooses to have an administering practitioner to administer the substance). The substance can be taken intravenously or orally in hospital or home. Please note that for some people having the choice and access to the medication is enough for them, they never feel the need to use it and may die naturally from their terminal condition.
Definitions	Voluntary Assisted Dying is an alternative end-of-life choice which means an eligible person can ask for medical help to end their life. Voluntary Assisted Dying and suicide are different. Asking for medical help to access VAD is not suicide under the law in Queensland.

Medical practitioners who have a conscientious objection to VAD they must: provide information about a health practitioner, provider or service they believe is likely to be able to assist; or provide the Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Support Service (QVAD-support) contact details. The cause of death on the medical certificate will be the terminal condition that the person is suffering from.

Suicide is an action taken to deliberately end one's own life, while intentional self-harm is deliberately causing physical harm to oneself but not necessarily with the intention of dying. Suicide is also not illegal in Australia. However, if a medical practitioner or other person aids the suicide of another outside of the VAD Laws, they can be prosecuted under Section 311 of the Criminal Code of Queensland.

Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Support Service (QVAD – Support) provides advice and support to Queenslanders about VAD. It is staffed by Care Coordinators (open 8:30am-4pm, Monday to Friday, 1800 431 371, qvadsupport@health.qld.gov.au)

Criteria	For the most up-to-date eligibility criteria it is important to refer to the Queensland Government website https://www.qld.gov.au/health/support/voluntary-assisted-dying
Roles and responsibilities	Community Service Officer or Legatee If a beneficiary expresses a wish to participate or have further discussions about the voluntary assisted dying process they must be given contact details for QVAD Support Line 1800 431 371. This is in accordance with a person's rights to freedom of expression, self-determination and decision-making. Legacy Brisbane has a duty of care to do this even if the Legatee or staff member has ethical or moral concerns. If a staff member of Legatee is not comfortable doing this, they must inform the relevant Community Service Officer or Community Services Manager, who will appoint someone to support the beneficiary.
Support	Supporting a beneficiary through Voluntary Assisted Dying can be a very emotional process. For staff, support can be provided by the Community Services Manager and/or the Employee Assistance Program Uprise, either online or calling 1300 209 371. For Legatees, support can be accessed through the relevant Contact Group Chair or CSM. Griefline 1300 845 745 is a national helpline supporting anyone who is grieving and may also be a useful resource.
Evaluation and review	An evaluation and review of this policy will be conducted by the policy sponsor every three years. Following the review, recommendations for change will be forwarded to the approval authority.
References and linkages	Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021 (Qld)