

# Voluntary Assisted Dying

## Privacy Statement

The Department for Health and Wellbeing is committed to protecting the privacy of all individuals involved in voluntary assisted dying in South Australia.

This includes patients requesting, or accessing voluntary assisted dying as well as health practitioners supporting patients to access voluntary assisted dying.

The Voluntary Assisted Dying Clinical Portal (the Clinical Portal) is an online platform used to manage and process requests for access to voluntary assisted dying. The Clinical Portal is managed and supported by the Department for Health and Wellbeing (the department).

This privacy statement outlines the policies regarding the privacy and security of information collected through the Clinical Portal. They should be read in conjunction with the Terms of Use for the Clinical Portal.

## What information is collected and why

The department and the Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board (the Board) collect and handle personal information for the purposes of enabling patients to access voluntary assisted dying in accordance with the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021*. Information collected for the purposes of voluntary assisted dying includes, but is not limited to:

- identifying information about patients and practitioners, for example name and date of birth;
- contact details, for example phone and email;
- demographic information, for example gender and country of birth;
- health information, for example diagnosis and prognosis;
- details of any information necessary to provide a service, for example if a person needs support from an interpreter or speech pathologist; and
- details about a person's access to voluntary assisted dying, for example, eligibility.

## How your information is collected

Medical practitioners will complete and submit forms containing a patient's personal information through the Clinical Portal. Medical practitioners must ensure that:

- the information they submit is complete and accurate; and
- they are authorised by their patient to create a profile and to provide their health information in the forms through the Clinical Portal; and
- they have made their patient and the contact person aware of the information contained in this Privacy Statement.

# Voluntary Assisted Dying

If the department and the Board do not receive all the information required for the purposes of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021*, a patient is unable to access a voluntary assisted dying substance.

## Who has access to your information?

Personal information stored in the Clinical Portal can only be accessed by Authorised Users to the extent that is required for them to perform their duties. All Authorised Users access the Clinical Portal with a unique User ID and password.

Personal information about patients will be accessed and used by the following Authorised Users:

- the patient's coordinating and consulting medical practitioner to enable patients to progress through the voluntary assisted dying pathway;
- pharmacists at the Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy Service to dispense, dispose and monitor the voluntary assisted dying medication;
- the Board to monitor the operation of the Act;
- department personnel to approve the voluntary assisted dying permit and provide administrative support to the Board; and
- personnel in the Voluntary Assisted Dying Care Navigator Service to provide care to patients accessing voluntary assisted dying.

Job role security is applied within the Portal and only persons required to have access to information for the purposes of the Act are authorised to access it. Medical practitioners can only access your personal information stored in the Clinical Portal if they are involved in supporting you to access voluntary assisted dying.

## How your information is stored

Information is stored in the Clinical Portal, which is a secure online system used by medical practitioners to complete and submit forms required to access voluntary assisted dying.

The department and the Board will take all reasonable security measures to protect personal information from loss, unauthorised access, use, modification, unauthorised disclosure or other misuse. Notwithstanding the above, the department is not responsible for events arising from unauthorised access to information secured using these technologies.

# Voluntary Assisted Dying

## How your information is used

Your information is used for the purposes of managing and processing requests for access to voluntary assisted dying. The department and the Board will handle personal information in accordance with applicable legislation and policies relating to privacy and confidentiality. Although the list below is not exhaustive, key legislation and policy includes:

- *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021*
- *Health Care Act 2008*
- *State Records Act 1997*
- *Mental Health Act 2009*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1991*
- Premier and Cabinet Circular – PC012 Information Privacy Principles (IPPS) Instruction

The Board will use deidentified statistical information:

- in reports released to the South Australian Parliament and the public about voluntary assisted dying activity in South Australia;
- to promote continuous improvement in the quality and safety of voluntary assisted dying; and
- to conduct analysis and research in relation to information received by the Board.

There may be occasions where the Board is required by law to disclose information to other bodies including, but not limited to:

- Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
- Births, Deaths and Marriages South Australia
- Coroner's Court of South Australia
- South Australia Police
- South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

## How can you access your information?

You may seek access to the personal information held about you by the department at any time in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1991 (SA)*. For more information, please contact the Department for Health and Wellbeing FOI Unit at [HealthFOIOCE@sa.gov.au](mailto:HealthFOIOCE@sa.gov.au).

## Updates to this statement

The content of this privacy statement may be updated from time to time, so if you use the Portal regularly, please ensure to carefully read the information provided.

# Voluntary Assisted Dying

## Making a complaint

If you believe that your personal information has been unreasonably shared or accessed, you can discuss this with the health service or make a complaint to the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner on (08) 8226 8666. Or alternatively, contact the Privacy Committee of South Australia on (08) 8204 8786.

---

## For more information

**Voluntary Assisted Dying Operations Team**  
Commissioning and Performance  
[Health.VADOperations@sa.gov.au](mailto:Health.VADOperations@sa.gov.au)  
[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au)

© Department for Health and Wellbeing, Government of South Australia. All rights reserved.

