

# Voluntary Assisted Dying

## Taskforce Chair's Update

In just under a week, eligible South Australians will be able to start making requests for and accessing voluntary assisted dying.

The SA Voluntary Assisted Dying Implementation Taskforce have now concluded meeting and we have confidence that the necessary supports are in place for voluntary assisted dying to commence on 31 January 2023.



Dr Chris Moy

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all members of the Implementation Taskforce – a full list of members is on the next page.

Thank you also to everyone who has contributed to the establishment of project workstreams and working groups, participated in workshops and information sessions, and prepared their services to provide care for people seeking to access voluntary assisted dying.

The Voluntary Assisted Dying Implementation Team have continued to work throughout the new year period to pull together the final pieces of implementation, releasing new consumer resources and supporting medical practitioners to complete their mandatory training.

Pharmacists and care navigator positions are fully recruited to and there are now four Local Health Network (LHN) Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) Liaison Nurses across our state. LHN VAD Liaison Nurses provide support within regional and metropolitan LHNs to connect people with appropriate services and health professionals in their area. I am very proud and impressed with the way the Voluntary Assisted Dying Implementation Team and Taskforce have worked together to bring this to fruition.

And as I say farewell, I would provide a final reminder that the best way to stay informed about voluntary assisted dying in SA through 31 January and beyond is via the website [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/vad](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/vad).

**Dr Chris Moy**  
**Chair, Voluntary Assisted Dying Implementation Taskforce**

# Voluntary Assisted Dying

## Thank you to Taskforce Members

Ms Carolanne Barkla	Chief Executive, Aged Rights Advocacy Service
Dr William Brereton	Senior Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, Northern Adelaide Local Health Network
Dr Michael Briffa	Palliative Care Consultant, Women's & Children's Health Network
Ms Frances Coombe	President, Voluntary Assisted Dying SA
Dr Chloe Furst	Consultant Geriatrician and Palliative Care Clinician, Central Adelaide Local Health Network
Dr Christopher Hocking	Head of Unit, Medical Oncology, Lyell McEwin Hospital
Dr Roger Hunt	Palliative Medicine Consultant
Ms Nicolle Jachmann	Chief Executive Officer, Riverview Lutheran Rest Home Inc.
Dr Chris Moy (Chair)	General Practitioner
Dr Michaela Okninski	Lecturer, Adelaide Law School, The University of Adelaide
Dr Chirag Patel	Consultant Rural Generalist, Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network
Associate Professor Bernadette Richards	Adjunct Associate Professor, The University of Queensland
Ms Tara Simpson	Team Leader, Administrative Law Group, Legal Services Commission
Ms Michele Smith	Governing Board Chair, Eyre and Far North Local Health Network
Ms Helen Stone	State & Territory Manager - SA & NT, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
Ms Helen Walker	Nurse Unit Manager, Laurel Hospice, Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (recently retired)
Ms Rosemary Wanganeen	Griefologist, Healing Centre for Griefology

# Voluntary Assisted Dying

## Spotlight on... the South Australian Voluntary Assisted Dying Care Navigator Service

The [South Australian Voluntary Assisted Dying Care Navigator Service \(SAVAD-CNS\)](#) has been established to support anyone considering voluntary assisted dying, and their family, friends and carers, health practitioners and health services to navigate the complex voluntary assisted dying process.

Care navigators have been recognised by clinicians and the community in Victoria and Western Australia where voluntary assisted dying is already available as a critical resource and central contact point to help move through the potential complexities of the pathway.

The SAVAD-CNS team are nursing and allied health professionals with experience in complex and end of life care, who provide:

- general information about end of life care services, including voluntary assisted dying and bereavement support
- individualised support for people accessing voluntary assisted dying
- assistance connecting people accessing voluntary assisted dying with appropriate medical practitioners and health services participating in voluntary assisted dying
- access to voluntary assisted dying support packages
- support for medical practitioners and health services
- education and training for health services.

Care navigators will work collaboratively with South Australian Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy Service and LHN Voluntary Assisted Dying Liaison Nurses in local health networks to ensure continuity of care and support across the journey for both people accessing voluntary assisted dying and medical practitioners.

To find out more about the service head to the website or contact:

**Email:** [Health.VADCareNavigators@sa.gov.au](mailto:Health.VADCareNavigators@sa.gov.au)

**Phone:** [0403 087 390](tel:0403087390)

SAVAD-CNS operates during standard business hours: 9.00 am to 5:00 pm.

# Voluntary Assisted Dying

## Did you know?

You can find everything that you need to know about voluntary assisted dying on the SA Health website: [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/vad](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/vad).

- Updated regularly, the website features information about the [pathway](#), [eligibility criteria](#), [conference recordings](#), [FAQs](#), [taskforce](#), [Review Board](#) and more!
- [Knowing your choices: Information for people considering voluntary assisted dying](#) is a resource to help people considering voluntary assisted dying, their family, friends and carers, and the community learn more about the process in South Australia.
- Statewide [support services](#) are now available to enable access to voluntary assisted dying:
  - [South Australian Voluntary Assisted Dying Care Navigator Service \(SAVAD-CNS\)](#)
  - [South Australian Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy Service \(SAVAD-PS\)](#)
- The [Voluntary Assisted Dying Clinical Guidelines for Health Practitioners](#) are a resource to support health professionals to understand the [Voluntary Assisted Dying Pathway](#) and their obligations under the [Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021](#) when providing care and support to people accessing voluntary assisted dying.
- The [SA Health Voluntary Assisted Dying Policy Directive](#) sets out the outline requirements for SA Health to appropriately, safely and effectively comply with the [Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021](#).
- The [Voluntary Assisted Dying Clinical Portal](#) the secure online system used by medical practitioners to manage requests for voluntary assisted dying.
- [Eligible medical practitioners](#) who wish to participate in voluntary assisted dying in South Australia can now register to access the online mandatory training via the [Clinical Portal](#).
- The [Prepare for Assessment Form](#) is an optional form people can use to gather the information and eligibility documents prior to their first assessment appointment. It is also available as a [pdf](#) to print, complete and take along to the appointment.

Note: information of the voluntary assisted dying medication is provided directly to trained medical practitioners, and to eligible patients and their families and carers, by the SA Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy Service.

# Voluntary Assisted Dying

## Workshops, events and presentations

### Webinar series

The Implementation Team are currently running a series of webinars on Microsoft Teams – no registration is necessary and anyone is welcome to join:

Topic	Date, Time & Link
Role of the Care Navigator Service	<a href="#">Wednesday 25 January 12.30 - 1pm</a>
Voluntary assisted dying quick overview	<a href="#">Wednesday 25 January, 5.15- 5.30pm</a>
Recapping key points of the voluntary assisted dying legislation	<a href="#">Friday 27 January, 12.30 - 1pm</a>
The Act is operational – where do we get support?	<a href="#">Tuesday 31 January 12.30 - 1pm</a>
The Law has commenced – what happens next?	<a href="#">Thursday 2 February 12.30 - 1pm</a>

### SA Voluntary Assisted Dying Implementation Conference

Missed the conference on 16 November?

Recordings and FAQs are available on the [Implementation Conference](#) page.

## Connect with us

Stay up to date with the latest news regarding voluntary assisted dying in South Australia by visiting [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/vad](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/vad) or join the mailing list by emailing us at [Health.VoluntaryAssistedDying@sa.gov.au](mailto:Health.VoluntaryAssistedDying@sa.gov.au).

# Voluntary Assisted Dying

## About the Implementation Team

For the final Implementation Taskforce communique we are pleased to feature information about the project lead for the implementation of voluntary assisted dying, Adam Monkhouse, Assistant Director, End of Life Care.

Adam (he/him) is the Assistant Director, End of Life Care at the Department for Health and Wellbeing and has been leading the team responsible for the implementation of voluntary assisted dying in South Australia.

Building on existing programs in palliative care and advance care planning, Adam established the End of Life Care team to support a holistic, person-centred approach to delivering statewide programs that support compassionate, safe and accessible care at end of life.

Adam is incredibly grateful to all the dedicated and passionate people he has had the pleasure to work with on this journey, and looks forward to the next phase of voluntary assisted dying from 31 January 2023.

## Support services

Some people may find issues relating to voluntary assisted dying concerning or distressing. If reading the material in this communique or thinking about voluntary assisted dying has raised some issues regarding grief and bereavement or personal crisis, the helplines and websites below provide support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- > Visit the [Lifeline website](#) or call 13 11 14
- > Visit our [Bereavement Portal](#)
- > Visit the [SA Health mental health services webpage](#) for a range of services
- > Call the Mental Health Triage Service on [13 14 65](#)
- > Call Kids Helpline on [1800 551 800](#)