

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING IN RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE

Voluntary assisted dying gives people who are suffering and dying, and who are eligible, the option of requesting medical assistance to end their lives.

In South Australia, voluntary assisted dying is governed by the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021. Voluntary assisted dying is a medical procedure and has strict eligibility criteria.

UnitingSA supports individuals to live the life that they choose.

We uphold the rights and dignity of South Australians who decide to access voluntary assisted dying in accordance with the Act.

However, UnitingSA does not provide voluntary assisted dying services at our Residential Aged Care homes.

What is our position on voluntary assisted dying in Residential Aged Care?

In performing their duties, UnitingSA staff will not provide voluntary assisted dying services and must not initiate discussions with residents or be directly involved in a voluntary assisted dying process.

Voluntary assisted dying is a process that can only be initiated by a resident and will be supported by the resident's GP and/or Care Navigator appointed through the State Government's Care Navigator Service.

Care Navigators will provide a person-centred service that assists the individual person, family or health practitioner to navigate voluntary assisted dying by providing information, answering queries, facilitating connections and supporting referrals.

What happens if a resident asks about accessing voluntary assisted dying?

Should a resident initiate an enquiry about voluntary assisted dying with a UnitingSA staff member, they will be directed to an on-site team member who has consented to act as a voluntary assisted dying Enquiry Officer. They will refer them to their GP and/or the Care Navigator Service.

Family and friends should not initiate a discussion about voluntary assisted dying with a UnitingSA staff member.

If a resident decides to explore and access voluntary assisted dying, we will continue provide spiritual care, support, and services to them throughout the end of life journey.

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UnitingSA acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout South Australia, their spiritual heritage, living culture and our walk together towards reconciliation.

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