

Voluntary Assisted Dying Policy

About this policy

HomeMade recognises that Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) is an end of life option that a person receiving aged care services at home may choose, provided that it is legal in their location and they meet the eligibility criteria set out in the VAD legislation relevant to that location.

Definition

Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD):

VAD is the assistance provided by a health practitioner to a person with a terminal disease, illness or medical condition to end their life. It includes:

- self-administration, where the person takes the VAD medication themselves, and
- practitioner administration, where the person is given the medication by a health practitioner.

‘Voluntary’ means it is the person’s voluntary choice. The person must have decision-making capacity to decide to access VAD.

Key Principles

Choice and Dignity. People should be supported to receive care and end-of-life services in the place of their choice, while respecting their dignity and personal preferences.

Family and Carer Involvement. We recognise the vital role of the customer’s family and carers in providing physical, emotional, social, and spiritual support. We work

with them to understand their capacity and willingness to contribute to the customer's care.

Standards

HomeMade is committed to adhering to the Aged Care Quality Standards (Standards), including demonstrating respect for those who are eligible for and choose to access VAD.

Standard 1 Consumer Dignity and Choice: We value diversity and treat every customer with dignity and respect, considering their identity and culture. We provide resources for different population groups and support families in communication and decision-making about care.

Standard 8 Organisational Governance: We embed safe and quality care delivery within our organisational governance. We continuously strive for quality improvement in our services.

Voluntary Assisted Policy Statement

HomeMade acknowledges and respects our customers' rights to access voluntary assisted dying where it is legally available and where they meet their state's eligibility criteria. We understand the significance of this deeply personal choice.

However, assisting customers with any aspects of the voluntary assisted dying process is strictly outside the scope of HomeMade staff and contracted service providers. Our primary focus is on supporting access to home care and palliative care services and respecting the autonomy and choices of our customers. Our commitment is to ensure that our customers' decisions are honoured and their care is provided with the utmost dignity and compassion during their palliative care journey.

Legislative / Compliance obligations

HomeMade complies with all relevant legislation, regulatory requirements, professional standards, and guidelines.

Evidence and Resource Base

Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (2019) Aged Care Quality Standards and Guidance Material

Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (2019) Charter of Aged Care Rights (under User Rights Principles 2019)

The Aged Care Act (1997) and the Quality of Care Principles (2014)

Associated Documents

- *Clinical Governance Framework*
- *SOP Dignity of Risk in Home Care*

Document Control

Version No.	Issue Date	Document Owner
1	June 2024	Head of Quality and Safeguarding
Version History		
Version No.	Review Date	Revision Description