



Call us on (08) 7001 6135 if you need assistance with the preparation of an Advance Care Directive.

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Advance Care Directive

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What is an Advance Care Directive?

An Advance Care Directive is a legal document that allows you to:

1. Write down your wishes, preferences and instructions for your future health care, end of life, living arrangements and personal matters; and
2. Appoint one or more Substitute Decision-Makers to make those decisions on your behalf if you are unable to make them for yourself.

It will give you peace of mind to know that your wishes are made clear to those caring for you when you are unable to make decisions for yourself. If you don't have an Advance Care Directive, your loved ones may have to make some important decisions about your life and health care with little idea of your wishes.

Who can make an Advance Care Directive?

In South Australia any person who fulfills the following criteria can make an Advance Care Directive:

1. 18 years old or over;
2. Know what an Advance Care Directive is;
3. Know what it will be used for; and
4. Know when it will be used.

Substitute Decision-Makers

A Substitute Decision-Maker is a person over 18 years old chosen by you to make decisions about your future health care, end of life, living arrangements and personal matters if you are unable to make them for yourself. This person(s) must try to make decisions they believe you would have made for yourself in the same circumstances, had you been able to.

Your Substitute Decision-Maker cannot make legal or financial decisions on your behalf (this can be done by appointing an Enduring Power of Attorney).

What kind of decisions does an Advance Care Directive cover?

An Advance Care Directive usually addresses the following issues:

- + What is important to you about your life and health (for example, continuing relationships with family and friends, continuing to be able to see your pets, remaining independent and religious beliefs);
- + Outcomes you wish to avoid (for example, your wishes for healthcare which prolongs life, the situation where you are unable to recognise family and friends and the situation where you are in a coma);
- + Your dying wishes (for example, where you would prefer to die, who you would want to be there, religious or cultural traditions, organ donation and your burial or cremation preferences);
- + Where you wish to live (for example, whether you wish to remain at home or go into supported care);
- + Healthcare you prefer (for example, medical treatment, mental health treatment, emergency care and life-sustaining treatment);
- + Other personal arrangements (for example, cultural or spiritual matters, employment, care of children, activities you enjoy and grooming requirements).

When does an Advance Care Directive come into effect?

An Advance Care Directive comes into effect upon you becoming of unsound mind. This is determined by a medical professional.

When does an Advance Care Directive come to an end?

An Advance Care Directive comes to an end in one of the following circumstances:

1. You revoke it formally by subsequently signing another Advance Care Directive (only if you are still of sound mind); or
2. When you die (in which case your Will comes into effect).