



End of Life Directions for Aged Care

What is the Legal toolkit?

End of life law governs medical treatment decisions made at the end of life, as well as Advance Care Planning. End of life law can be complex. The law is different in each Australian State and Territory, and differs depending on whether or not a person has capacity.

In aged care practice, health professionals and aged care workers may be called upon to:

- decide whether to follow a person's Advance Care Directive;
- identify the substitute decision-maker for a person who lacks capacity;
- decide whether life-sustaining treatment can lawfully be withheld or withdrawn;
- determine the appropriate level of pain and symptom relief that can be given to a person; and
- decide whether or not to provide emergency treatment, or transfer a person to hospital.

The Legal toolkit has been designed to **help you to know the law, reduce your legal risk, and deliver high quality palliative and aged care** when these types of situations arise.



The toolkit contains:

- Factsheets on the law relating to issues commonly encountered in aged care.
- Mythbusters to clarify myths about end of life law.
- Case studies which show how the law is applied in aged care practice.
- Links to information about the law in each Australian State and Territory on the *End of Life Law in Australia* website <https://end-of-life.qut.edu.au/>.
- Links to other resources.

To access the Legal toolkit, visit the ELDAC website, www.eldac.com.au.

ELDAC Helpline: 1800 870 155

www.eldac.com.au

