



Position Statement Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD)

Mercy Connect, guided by a rich tradition of compassionate care, places a high priority on working collaboratively with individuals, their families and significant other people in their lives throughout all phases of end-of-life care.

Our values reflect the ethos of the Sisters of Mercy; to enhance the well-being of others in our support, inspired by Catherine McAuley's legacy, guiding and empowering us to be better. Our Mercy-led actions of compassion, hospitality, respect, innovation, teamwork and accountability bring us together in life and work.

As of November 2023, the NSW Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) laws grants providers the choice to participate in the state's VAD system. Mercy Connect does not provide VAD services at any of our facilities. While we do not offer VAD services internally, we understand that some participants may wish to explore this option. Mercy Connect is dedicated to handling such inquiries with compassion and respect, maintaining an open dialogue to address any concerns or questions.

Mercy Connect acknowledges that some people have a legal right to consider VAD and if a participant wishes to access VAD from another provider, we fully respect their autonomy and will facilitate a smooth transition, consistent with our mission and values. Our commitment to caring for participants considering or pursuing VAD remains unwavering, and we will adhere to all relevant NSW legislation.

Staff who receive a direct request from a participant or their family for information related to VAD will always treat the person with compassion and respect irrespective of their own views regarding VAD. Staff will inform their direct line manager who will refer the person on to their medical practitioner for further discussion and assistance.