

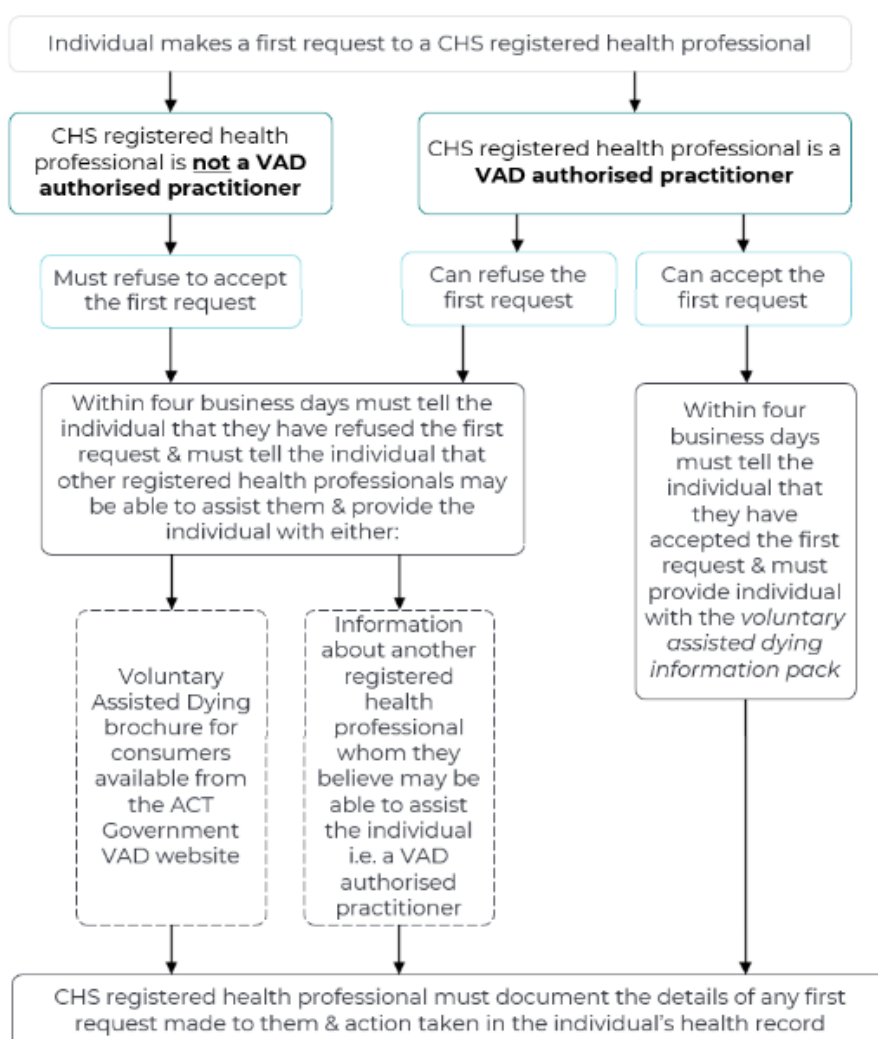
Voluntary Assisted Dying Declaration

Voluntary assisted dying (VAD) will become a legal end of life option in the ACT from 3rd November 2025. Staff, particularly health professionals, should familiarise themselves with the following information and resources.

Three key legislative obligations under the [Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2024](#) (the Act)

1. Responding to a first request

As set out in the VAD Act, the first step of the VAD process is where an individual makes a first request for access to VAD to a registered health professional (i.e. person registered under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (ACT) 2024* to practise as a health professional). See below for overview of process for CHS registered health professionals, further details are outlined in the [CHS VAD Procedure](#).



2. Raising voluntary assisted dying as an end-of-life choice

The VAD Act enables registered health professionals, counsellors, social workers and speech pathologists to initiate a discussion about VAD as an end-of-life choice with an individual in the following circumstances.

A doctor or nurse practitioner (with relevant expertise to discuss the full range of treatment and palliative care options) may raise VAD as an end-of-life choice if they:

- know or reasonably believe that the individual has been diagnosed with a condition or conditions which meets the VAD eligibility criteria, and
- are satisfied that they have the expertise to appropriately discuss treatment and palliative care options with the individual, and
- take reasonable steps to ensure that the individual knows of the treatment options available for the condition or conditions, the likely outcome of the treatment options, palliative care options available to the individual and the likely outcome of the palliative care options.

Doctors or nurse practitioners (without relevant expertise to discuss the full range of treatment and palliative care options), other registered health professionals (e.g. registered nurses), counsellors, social workers and speech pathologists may raise VAD as an end-of-life choice if they:

- know or reasonably believe that the individual has been diagnosed with a condition or conditions which meets the VAD eligibility criteria, and
- take reasonable steps to ensure that the individual knows that treatment and palliative care options are available to the individual and that the individual should discuss the options with their treating doctor.

Further guidance for ***other CHS self-regulated health professionals*** is provided in the [CHS VAD Procedure](#).

3. Conscientious objection to voluntary assisted dying

Health professionals have the right to conscientiously object to participating in VAD.

If CHS registered health professionals, social workers and speech pathologists conscientiously object to VAD and refuse to act in certain parts of the VAD process (be a VAD authorised practitioner, provide eligibility requirement advice, supply or be present during VAD substance administration), they must within two business days of this refusal give the individual the Voluntary assisted dying brochure for consumers available from the ACT Government VAD website (available at: <https://www.act.gov.au/health/end-of-life-and-palliative-care/accessing->

[voluntary-assisted-dying-in-the-act](#)). Further details are provided in the [CHS VAD Procedure](#).

Note: This document only lists three key legislative obligations under the Act. Staff must ensure that they also refer to the CHS VAD resources for further guidance on how to meet these and other legislative obligations under the Act.

CHS VAD Resources for staff

All staff, particularly health professionals and those who are part of the treating team should:

- Familiarise themselves with the [CHS VAD Procedure](#)
- Familiarise themselves with the [CHS VAD Support Service Model of Care](#)
- Complete the [CHS VAD General Awareness Training](#) This training will assist you to consolidate your understanding of your legislative obligations under the Act and other key information outlined in the CHS VAD Procedure. This training should take approximately 15 minutes to complete
- Attend a VAD education session delivered by the VAD Care Navigator Service (CNS). The VAD CNS helps navigate staff and the community through the voluntary assisted dying process
- Refer to the [Voluntary assisted dying](#) SharePoint site for further CHS VAD information, including Frequently Asked Questions.

Important: By clicking **Agree**, you are verifying you understand:

- your legislative obligations under the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2024*
- that an individual's request for information about VAD or access to VAD must not impact any aspect of treatment and care that they receive from CHS staff
- that if you have any concerns or queries in relation to VAD, that you are strongly encouraged to contact a VAD CNS, Monday – Friday during normal working hours) and where appropriate speak with your line manager.
 - **Phone:** 02 5124 1888
 - **Email:** vad.carenavigators@act.gov.au



Acknowledgement of Country

Canberra Health Services acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognises any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and contribution to the life of this region.

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