



# PAC Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) Policy

## POLICY STATEMENT

Presbyterian Aged Care's (PAC) mission is to demonstrate the love of God by ensuring the provision of high-quality care and accommodation for older people at all stages of their life. Our commitment to excellence, compassion and respect is inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

PAC is a ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the state of NSW. In July 2022, the General Assembly of the denomination adopted an official position statement on voluntary assisted dying (VAD).

PAC seeks to support its residents as they near the end of life, with dignified palliative care so that they might die comfortably. PAC also seeks to support resident families and friends during this time. PAC seeks to care, never to harm.

The Bible teaches that every person, regardless of their circumstances, has dignity and worth. For this reason:

1. PAC seeks to enrich living and will never hasten or prolong death. PAC respects the individual's preference to withdraw from medical treatment at the appropriate time when further treatment will not improve their quality of life or prognosis. PAC encourages the preparation of Advance Care Directives.
2. PAC does not support and will not:
  - a. participate in the request and assessment process;
  - b. participate in an administration decision;
  - c. prescribe, supply or administer a voluntary assisted dying substance;
  - d. store a voluntary assisted dying substance; or
  - e. be present at the time of the administration or self-administration of a voluntary assisted dying substance;

**(Provide VAD).**

3. PAC wants all residents and their families to be aware of our objection to VAD.
4. PAC will always provide excellent end of life care and will never deny our residents treatment
5. PAC will always seek to listen and respond openly and with sensitivity to any resident who wishes to talk about their end of life. We will also seek to support family members and friends in these conversations. We will never discriminate in the provision of such support.
6. PAC asks that any resident who wants to obtain information about VAD should contact NSW Health or their medical practitioner.
7. PAC will not impede residents who choose to relocate to a facility which Provides VAD.