

Riverview Lutheran Rest Home Inc
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Position on Voluntary Assisted Dying

From January 31 2023, The ***Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021***, makes voluntary assisted dying (VAD) lawful in South Australia under specific circumstances.

The Lutheran Church of Australia does not support Voluntary Assisted Dying. However, this does not mean that Christians are obligated to unnecessarily prolong life by taking on burdensome treatments. What it does mean is that we have a special obligation to love and care for people who are suffering, including advocating for the best possible palliative care.

As such it is Riverview Lutheran Rest Home Inc's policy that we do not provide VAD services or play an active role in the VAD process. This policy does not prevent our permanent residents accessing external VAD services onsite. Given the lethal nature of the substance it is our policy that the support person should be onsite at the time of ingestion to ensure the safe removal of the remaining substance from the facility for the safety of others.

If residents in our care seek information and/or access to VAD, we will direct them to the SA Voluntary Assisted Dying Care Navigator service who can assist with information and access to VAD.

While Riverview Lutheran Rest Home Inc does not provide VAD services or play an active role in the VAD process, a respectful approach will always be maintained in the everyday care of residents who choose to pursue VAD, and to family and friends of such residents throughout the VAD process and any subsequent bereavement. Access to medical, chaplaincy, nursing and care services will not be adversely affected. We however do not play an active role in the VAD process.

