

Template VAD information for providers

There are different ways to provide comprehensive VAD information. We have made a suggested template for a fictional provider called GreenGrass Care Homes, based in Victoria, to display on its website.

Ideally this information will be available in the same place that information is provided on palliative and other end-of-life options, or otherwise featured on an FAQ page.

Voluntary Assisted Dying at GreenGrass

At GreenGrass Care Homes, we are committed to supporting the choices, dignity, and wellbeing of our residents. This includes providing compassionate and lawful responses to residents who may want to use the option of voluntary assisted dying.

Our commitment is to ensure that all residents and families feel supported, safe, and heard — no matter their decisions.

What is Voluntary Assisted Dying?

Voluntary assisted dying (VAD) means a person in the late stages of advanced disease can take a substance prescribed by a doctor that will bring about their death at a time they choose.

Only people who meet all the conditions and follow the process can access the voluntary assisted dying substance. A person's decision to ask for voluntary assisted dying must be:

- voluntary (the person's own decision)
- enduring (the person makes three separate requests for voluntary assisted dying during the process)
- fully informed (the person is well-informed about their disease, and their treatment and palliative care options).

For more information, visit the [Victorian Dept of Health website](#).

Our approach at GreenGrass

GreenGrass and its staff do not provide VAD services or care. However, we respect the right of our residents to make informed decisions about their care, including VAD, and will not hinder access to VAD information. We will never discriminate against or withdraw support from a resident who is exploring or accessing VAD.

We will always respect resident's privacy and confidentiality.

If a GreenGrass resident wishes to explore VAD, we will:

- Allow external VAD clinicians such as medical practitioners, VAD Care Navigation Service and the VAD Statewide Pharmacy Service to GreenGrass facilities to provide VAD care and services, including for assessments and administering the VAD substance
- Receive delivery of an eligible resident's VAD substance, and allow storage where necessary
- Not ask residents to transfer to another place for any part of the VAD process
- Respect patient confidentiality and resident privacy at all times.

Talking to us about VAD

A GreenGrass resident considering VAD should speak with our Facility Manager in confidence. We will always listen with empathy. We will supply the resident with a print-out of this information. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the GreenGrass Facility Manager on greengrass@carehomes.org.au or call 012 345 678.

Support and information

For more information, please contact [Victoria's VAD Care Navigation Service](#).
Phone: (03) 8559 5823 Email: vadcarenavigator@petermac.org

Information should have a clear title which includes the words 'voluntary assisted dying' and appear if this term is typed into the website's 'search' function

Include a definition of VAD for readers who do not know what it is, or may know it by another name. Use the wording from your jurisdiction's health department and include a link to the webpage.

This is the minimum commitment a provider could make in respect of access. It would get a **GREEN LIGHT** for VAD information if the information was clearly displayed and publicly available, but a **RED LIGHT** for access.

This is the detail and approach required for an **AMBER LIGHT** for access. It should set out which parts of the process can and cannot happen within the facility in a way that is easy for consumers to understand.

Designate a 'VAD Lead' within your organisation. Everyone in the organisation should know who this is. Also supply printed information that will be given to residents on request. It could be a print-out of this webpage.

Whatever your organisation's stance on VAD, information should include contact details for your state's VAD Care Navigation Service.