

# Residency requirements and exemption process factsheet

## Voluntary assisted dying

This factsheet outlines the residency requirements to access voluntary assisted dying, when an exemption from these requirements may be given and the process to apply for an exemption.

### Eligibility

You must meet **all** the eligibility criteria to access voluntary assisted dying:

1. Have an eligible condition.
2. Have decision-making capacity.
3. Be acting voluntarily and without coercion.
4. Be at least 18 years of age.
5. Fulfil residency requirements.

To fulfil the residency requirements, you must either:

- be an Australian Citizen, or
- be a permanent resident of Australia (this includes New Zealand citizens who hold a special category visa as defined by the Migration Act 1958 (Commonwealth)), or
- have been ordinarily resident in Australia for at least three years immediately before making the first request:
  - ‘ordinarily resident’ is someone who regularly or normally lives in Australia. It does not include people who temporarily live in a place, for example, for a holiday, business, or education, or

- have been granted an Australian residency exemption by Queensland Health.

You must also have been either:

- ordinarily resident in Queensland for at least 12 months, immediately before making a first request, or
- granted a Queensland residency exemption by Queensland Health.

### Residency exemptions

If you do not meet the residency requirements, but do meet the other four eligibility criteria, you may be able to apply for a residency exemption from Queensland Health.

**Queensland Health can grant an exemption from the residency requirements:**

- if you have a **substantial connection** to Queensland, and
- where there are **compassionate grounds**.

**Examples of a substantial connection to Queensland are people who:**

- have been living in Queensland for several years
- have been living in a place close to the Queensland border and who work in Queensland and receive medical treatment in Queensland. For example, someone who lives on the northern New South Wales border
- live outside of the state but are a former Queensland resident
- have family who live in Queensland.

**Compassionate grounds will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Compassionate grounds are reasons for letting someone do**

### MORE INFORMATION

Visit [health.qld.gov.au/vad](http://health.qld.gov.au/vad)



something out of sympathy for their suffering.

## Application process

There are five steps in the residency application process:

1. You will need to make a first request for voluntary assisted dying and have your doctor accept your request. You and your doctor must be in Queensland:
  - when you make a first request
  - for all steps in the voluntary assisted dying process.

If you do not have a Queensland-based doctor, you can contact the Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Support Service (QVAD-Support) who will be able to help you find a doctor who can help with your request. You can contact QVAD-Support Monday to Friday, 8.30am-4pm (excluding public holidays):

**Phone:** 1800 431 371

**Email:** [qvadsupport@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:qvadsupport@health.qld.gov.au)

Alternatively, you will need to speak to a Hospital and Health Service Voluntary Assisted Dying Coordinator about accessing voluntary assisted dying.

2. You will need to fill in and submit an application to Queensland Health, by emailing the following items to [VADEXEMPTIONS@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:VADEXEMPTIONS@health.qld.gov.au):
  - a completed Residency Exemption Application Form, you can get a copy of this form:
    - by emailing [VADEXEMPTIONS@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:VADEXEMPTIONS@health.qld.gov.au) or [QVADSUPPORT@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:QVADSUPPORT@health.qld.gov.au)

- evidence of your substantial connection to Queensland, this can include:
  - medical records or a letter from your doctor confirming you are receiving treatment in Queensland
  - a letter from a family member in Queensland
  - evidence of former residency in Queensland
- a letter of support from your doctor. Your coordinating doctor or Hospital and Health Service Voluntary Assisted Dying Coordinator will give you this letter if you are likely to meet the other four criteria. They can email [VADEXEMPTIONS@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:VADEXEMPTIONS@health.qld.gov.au) or [QVADSUPPORT@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:QVADSUPPORT@health.qld.gov.au) for a letter template.

**Note:** if you are unable to email your form, you can ask a support person or your doctor to submit the form on your behalf.

3. Queensland Health will assess your application.
4. You may be asked for more information to support your application.
5. Once all the requested information is received, you will be emailed the outcome of your application within five business days.

If you have any questions during the application process, you can ask your doctor or contact QVAD-Support.

If you are granted a residency exemption, your coordinating doctor can continue to the first assessment, if you wish to continue.

If you are not granted a residency exemption the voluntary assisted dying process stops.

The decision of Queensland Health to not grant a residency exemption is not reviewable by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal. It is recommended you talk to your coordinating doctor about other care and support available to you.

# Support

## QVAD-Support

QVAD-Support provides advice to all Queenslanders about voluntary assisted dying.

QVAD-Support is run by care coordinators, who are medical, nursing, and allied healthcare workers. You can contact QVAD-Support if you have any questions about your role as the contact person or voluntary assisted dying.

You can talk to a care coordinator Monday to Friday, 8.30am-4pm, (excluding public holidays).

Phone: 1800 431 371

Email: [QVADSupport@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:QVADSupport@health.qld.gov.au)

## Support services

Some people may find reading information relating to voluntary assisted dying upsetting. If this content has raised distressing issues for you or someone you know, call one of the helplines below for support and counselling:

### 24/7 crisis services

- Mental Health Access Line call 1300 64 22 55 (24/7)
- Lifeline call 13 11 14 (24/7 – phone, text, online)
- Suicide Call Back Service call 1300 659 467 (24/7 – phone and online)

### Support services

- Beyond Blue call 1300 22 4636 (24/7 – phone, online)
- Griefline call 1300 845 745 (6am to midnight AEST, 7 days a week)
- Queensland Transcultural Mental Health Centre call 3317 1234 or 1800 188 189 (outside of Brisbane) or 1300 64 22 55 (24/7)
- World Wellness Group (multicultural support) call 3333 2100

For more information and support visit <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/mental-health/help-lines>



## Help in your language

For help reading this information call:

- Multicultural Connect Line free hotline number: 1300 079 020
- Interpreter Service (Help with English): 13 QGOV (13 74 68) and ask for an interpreter
- Translating and Interpreting Service: 13 14 50