

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING PORTAL PRIVACY STATEMENT

The independent Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board (**the board**) is committed to protecting the privacy of all individuals accessing or supporting persons to access voluntary assisted dying in Victoria. The board is a statutory body established by the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017* (**the Act**). Its secretariat functions are provided by Safer Care Victoria (**SCV**), an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services (**the department**). SCV works closely with the board and the department to ensure the privacy of all individuals is maintained.

The board and SCV collect and handle your personal information (which may include health and other sensitive information) for the purposes of enabling individuals to access voluntary assisted dying as required and authorised by the Act and consistent with their privacy obligations in the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and *Health Records Act 2001*. Your personal information is generally collected by the board when voluntary assisted dying is accessed through the online Voluntary Assisted Dying Portal (the **portal**).

To enable a person access to voluntary assisted dying, personal information about medical practitioners, the person requesting access to voluntary assisted dying (their **patient**) and their patient's appointed contact person must be provided by the co-ordinating and consulting medical practitioners through a series of prescribed forms. These forms are provided to the board, the Secretary of the department (or their delegate) and the statewide voluntary assisted dying pharmacy service through the portal.

Medical practitioners must use the online portal to create online profiles for themselves and their patients. They must complete and submit the required forms through the portal for the request and assessment process and the issuing of permits and in doing so they must ensure that:

- the information they submit is complete and accurate;
- they are authorised by their patient to create a profile and to provide their health information in the forms through the portal; and
- they have made their patient and the contact person aware of the information contained in this Privacy Statement.

If the board, SCV and the department do not receive all the information required to comply with the Act, a patient cannot access a voluntary assisted dying medication.

The board must also collect additional information about medical practitioners who train, undertake assessment for and apply to practice voluntary assisted dying for identity and verification purposes. To create an account with the portal, medical practitioners will be required to provide evidence of their identity. This is required to enable their identity to be verified, which is required for the forms to be completed and submitted electronically. Medical practitioners must also provide evidence of fellowship with a specialist medical college or vocational registration as a general practitioner. Medical practitioners will undertake the online approved assessment training through Queensland University of Technology (**QUT**) and the date on which they completed this training will be provided to SCV by QUT, as completion of the approved assessment training is a requirement of the Act.

After a person has accessed voluntary assisted dying, the board is required to contact the patient's nominated contact person to inform them to return of any unused voluntary assisted dying substance to the dispensing pharmacy and to outline the support services available to assist with this. The board will invite the contact person to share information regarding their experience of accessing voluntary assisted dying for its quality improvement and research functions. The board may also survey medical practitioners to request feedback on the portal and process to support a patient to access voluntary assisted dying.

To perform its statutory functions, the board may also disclose personal information it collects to other bodies including the department, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria, the Coroner's Court of Victoria and in limited situations, Victoria Police and the Victorian Civil Administration Tribunal. The board may share de-identified information with approved research bodies, and de-identified aggregated information about the people accessing voluntary assisted dying will be reported publicly and to the Victorian Parliament through for example, annual reports.

MORE INFORMATION – ACCESS, CORRECTION AND COMPLAINTS

You may request access to and correction of your personal information that SCV and the board collects about you using the contact details below.

Contact SCV

For more information on how the board and SCV collect, use, share and manage your personal information and handle privacy complaints, please refer to SCV's privacy policy which can be found on the SCV website at <https://bettersafecare.vic.gov.au/privacy> or email privacy@safecare.vic.gov.au.

Contact the department

For more about how the department collects, uses, shares and manages your personal information and handles privacy complaints, please refer to its privacy policy at <https://dhhs.vic.gov.au/privacy-statement> or email privacy@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

Contact the board

You can contact the secretariat of the board by emailing VADBoard@safecare.vic.gov.au or writing to us at:

Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board
Care of Safer Care Victoria
Level 3, 50 Lonsdale Street, VIC 3000.