

Providing voluntary assisted dying in Western Australia

Health practitioner access to the WA Voluntary Assisted Dying Approved Training

Summary

This information sheet is for medical practitioners and nurse practitioners who are seeking to access the Western Australian Voluntary Assisted Dying Approved Training (WA VAD Approved Training).

Key points include:

- Medical practitioners and nurse practitioners seeking to participate in voluntary assisted dying process are required to successfully complete the WA VAD Approved Training.
- Access to the WA VAD Approved Training will only be granted to practitioners who meet the relevant eligibility requirements under the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019* (including the requirements approved by the CEO).
- Practitioners can register online to commence the access process.

Who can access the WA VAD Approved Training?

Only medical practitioners and nurse practitioners who meet the relevant eligibility requirements of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019* (the Act) will be granted access to the training.

A medical practitioner is eligible to act as a Coordinating Practitioner or Consulting Practitioner if they:

- hold specialist registration, have practised the medical profession for at least one year as the holder of specialist registration and meet the requirements approved by the CEO; or
- hold general registration, have practised the medical profession for at least 10 years as the holder of general registration and meet the requirements approved by the CEO; or
- are an overseas-trained specialist who holds limited registration or provisional registration and meets the requirements approved by the CEO.

Nurse practitioners must:

- hold nursing registration with endorsement as a nurse practitioner and have practised as a nurse practitioner for at least two years; and
- meet the requirements approved by the CEO.

The requirements approved by the CEO (the Director General of the Department of Health) are outlined in Attachment 1 and are also published on the Department of Health [website here](#).

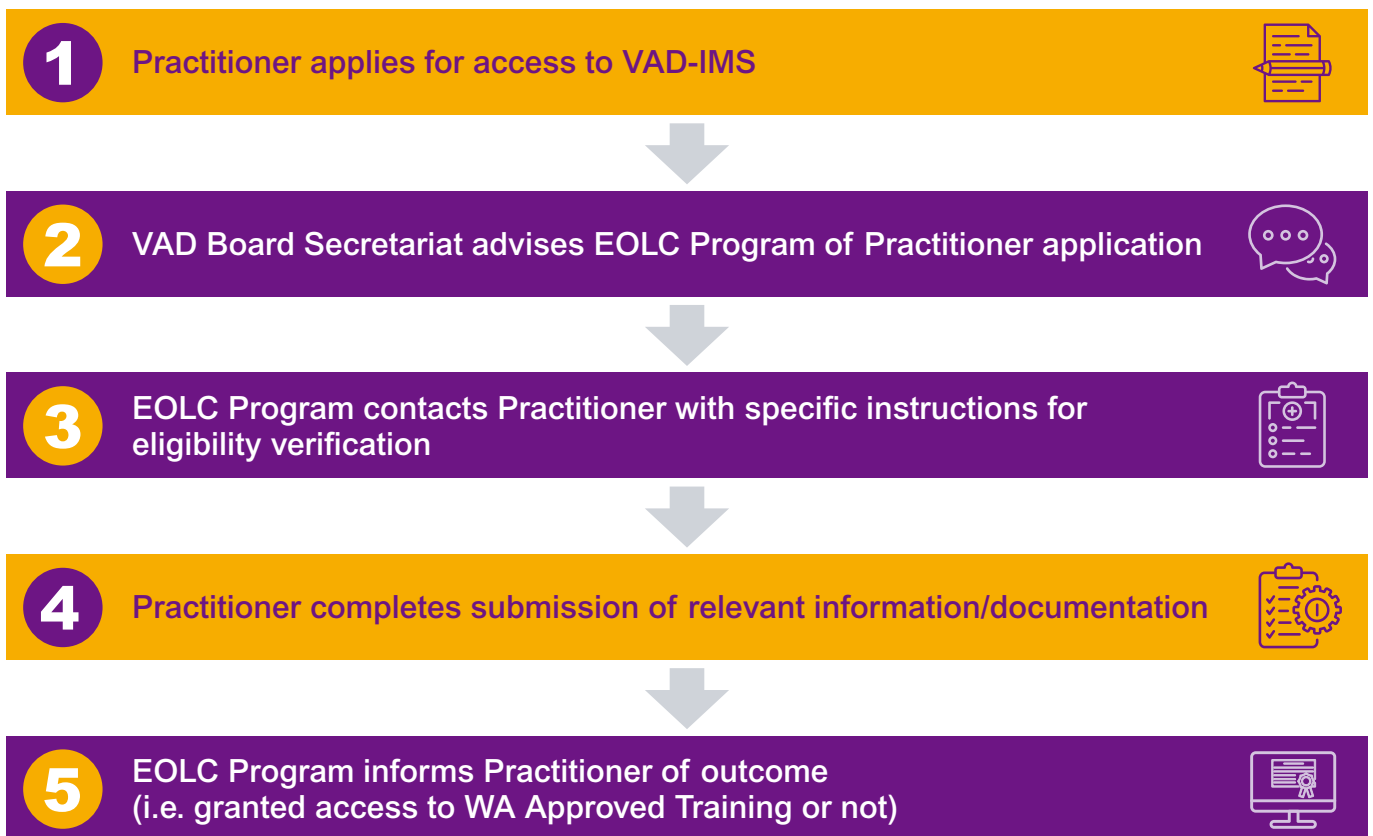
NB: there are additional eligibility requirements that are specific to the individual patient that the practitioner must ensure they meet prior to commencing a role related to the voluntary assisted dying process for that individual patient. More information can be found in the information sheet “**Health Professional Participation**”.

Who determines access the WA VAD Approved Training?

The End of Life Care Program (EOLC Program) in the Department of Health will manage the process of access to the WA VAD Approved Training. A clinical panel will have oversight and involvement in the decision-making process.

How can I access the WA VAD Approved Training?

The steps involved in accessing the WA VAD Approved Training are as follows:



Getting started: Step 1 – Apply for access to VAD-IMS

You will need to register your interest in accessing the WA VAD Approved Training by first applying for access to the Voluntary Assisted Dying – Information Management System (VAD-IMS). VAD-IMS is the ICT system that will be used to submit relevant forms to the Voluntary Assisted Dying Board (the VAD Board).

You can apply for access to VAD-IMS [here](#).

This link is also available on the VAD Board website:

<https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/voluntaryassisteddyingboard>

Full access to VAD-IMS will only be granted to practitioners who successfully complete the WA VAD Approved Training.

VAD-IMS Voluntary Assisted Dying - Information Management System

From commencement of the [Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019](#) (scheduled for 1 July 2021) VAD-IMS will be the online platform for management of voluntary assisted dying in Western Australia. It is where practitioners will submit forms to the Voluntary Assisted Dying Board.

You are currently able to register for the Department of Health participating practitioner eligibility verification process (including access to the mandatory approved training when it becomes available in early June 2021) and apply for access to VAD-IMS.

Practitioner access

[Apply for access to VAD-IMS](#)

Before applying for access to VAD-IMS, review the relevant information provided on the Department of Health's [Voluntary Assisted Dying website](#).

Resources

- [The WA Department of Health – Voluntary Assisted Dying](#)
- [Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019](#)

Next steps: Preparation for submission of relevant information/documentation

You can prepare in advance by having key information/documentation ready for submission. Information/documentation required falls into two main categories:

1. Minimum proof of identity
2. Evidence to support eligibility verification

Minimum proof of identity

You will be required to provide documentation as outlined in Attachment 2.

Evidence to support eligibility verification

You will be required to provide:

- A current CV that includes enough detail to demonstrate that you meet the requirements related to years of clinical practice at the relevant registration and practice type, and hours of clinical practice that meet the specific requirements of the CEO.
- Current details of two (2) professional referees that will be contacted by the EOLC Program as part of the verification process.

(These referees should know the practitioner in a professional capacity and be able to attest to their suitability to participate in the voluntary assisted dying process. A brief and confidential referee check will be conducted. This is likely to be by a senior member of the EOLC Program over the phone. Practitioners do not have to provide a current supervisor or colleague as a referee.)

NB: Practitioners who are overseas trained specialists applying under the Limited or Provisional registration provisions will be informed of additional requirements by the EOLC Program.

What if I am having difficulty with the process?

If you are experiencing issues, please contact the EOLC Program team via VADApprovedTraining@health.wa.gov.au



Department of Health

Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019

CEO Practitioner Eligibility Requirements

I, Dr D J Russell-Weisz, CEO of the Department of Health, approve:

- a. pursuant to section 17(2)(a) of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019*, the eligibility requirements set out in Table 1 for a medical practitioner to act as a coordinating practitioner or consulting practitioner for a patient; and
- b. pursuant to section 54(1)(a)(ii) of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019*, the eligibility requirements set out in Table 2 for a nurse practitioner to act as an administering practitioner for a patient.

Dr D J Russell-Weisz
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

21 October 2020

Table 1

Section 17(2)(a)(i) COORDINATING or CONSULTING PRACTITIONER (specialist medical practitioner)	
1.1	Medical practitioner must have clinically practised twice the minimum hours per registration period described in the Recency of Practice Registration Standard published by the Medical Board of Australia and this clinical practice must include patient assessment and clinical decision making.
1.2	Medical practitioner must not have any notations, conditions, undertakings or reprimands on their Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority (AHPRA) registration record which make the practitioner unsuitable for roles under the <i>Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019</i> as determined by the CEO.
1.3	The CEO must be satisfied as to the suitability of the medical practitioner for roles under the <i>Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019</i> on the basis of two professional referees provided by the medical practitioner.

Section 17(2)(a)(ii)**COORDINATING or CONSULTING PRACTITIONER (generalist medical practitioner)**

2.1	Medical practitioner must have clinically practised twice the minimum hours per registration period described in the Recency of Practice Registration Standard published by the Medical Board of Australia and this clinical practice must include patient assessment and clinical decision making.
2.2	Medical practitioner must not have any notations, conditions, undertakings or reprimands on their Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority (AHPRA) registration record which make the practitioner unsuitable for roles under the <i>Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019</i> as determined by the CEO.
2.3	The CEO must be satisfied as to the suitability of the medical practitioner for roles under the <i>Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019</i> on the basis of two professional referees provided by the medical practitioner.

Section 17(2)(a)(iii)**COORDINATING or CONSULTING PRACTITIONER (overseas trained specialist medical practitioner)**

3.1	Medical practitioner must be permitted by their registration to work in a gazetted area of need OR as a sponsored provider within a health service in Western Australia.
3.2	Medical practitioner must have undergone formal assessment by the relevant Australian college.
3.3	Medical practitioner must have at least 5 years of experience as a specialist.
3.4	Medical practitioner must have had their specialist pathway and supervision program approved by the relevant Australian college and must have completed at least 12 months working in a supervised position within Western Australia.
3.5	Medical practitioner must have clinically practised twice the minimum hours per registration period described in the 'Recency of Practice Registration Standard published by the Medical Board of Australia and this clinical practice must include patient assessment and clinical decision making.
3.6	Medical practitioner must not have any notations, conditions, undertakings or reprimands on their Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority (AHPRA) registration record which make the practitioner unsuitable for roles under the <i>Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019</i> as determined by the CEO.
3.7	The CEO must be satisfied as to the suitability of the medical practitioner for roles under the <i>Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019</i> on the basis of two professional referees provided by the medical practitioner.

Table 2

Section 54(1)(a)(ii) ADMINISTERING PRACTITIONER (nurse practitioner)	
4.1	Nurse practitioner must have clinically practised twice the minimum hours per registration period described in the Recency of Practice Registration Standard published by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia at the advanced practice nursing level as required by the Endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner Registration Standard published by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, and this clinical practice must include patient assessment and clinical decision making.
4.2	Nurse practitioner must not have any notations, conditions, undertakings or reprimands on their Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority (AHPRA) registration record which make the practitioner unsuitable for role under the <i>Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019</i> as determined by the CEO.
4.3	The CEO must be satisfied as to the suitability of the nurse practitioner for role under the <i>Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019</i> on the basis of two professional referees provided by the nurse practitioner.

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

Produced by Health Networks
© Department of Health 2021

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.

HEN-013929 APR'21



Department of
Health

Voluntary assisted dying

Minimum proof of identity requirement for access to WA VAD approved training

The Minimum Proof of Identity Requirements are as per those recommended by the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) which replaced the former '100-point identity check' (Source: www.acic.gov.au). Some documentation types accepted by ACIC have been removed as not appropriate to the verification process relating to access to voluntary assisted dying Approved Training (e.g. secondary student identification card).

Minimum proof of identity requirements:

You must provide four (4) documents to confirm your identity:

- one (1) commencement document to confirm your birth in Australia or arrival in Australia
- one (1) primary and two (2) secondary documents to show the use of your identity in the community.

as well as a confirmed linkage between you and your documentation through providing:

- one (1) self-captured photo of yourself holding your photo ID.

Each document can be used only once.

The combination of documents must include evidence of your full name and date of birth and a photograph of you. If your commencement and primary documents do not include a photograph you must submit a passport-style photograph certified by a person listed in Schedule 2 of the *Statutory Declarations Regulations 2018* (Cth).

The Department of Health WA will use these documents to verify your identity against the personal information you have provided.

Commencement documents

- a. Australian birth certificate (full not an extract or birth card)
- b. Australian passport (not expired)
- c. Australian visa (current at the time of entry to Australia as resident or tourist)
- d. ImmiCard issued by Immigration and Border Protection that enables the cardholder to prove their visa and/or immigration status and enrol in services
- e. Certificate of identity issued by Foreign Affairs and Trade to refugees and non-Australian citizens for entry to Australia
- f. Document of identity issued by Foreign Affairs and Trade to Australian citizens or persons who have the nationality of a Commonwealth country for travel purposes
- g. Australian Citizenship certificate.

Primary documents

- a. Current Australian driver licence, learner permit or provisional licence issued by a state or territory, showing signature and/or photo and the same name as claimed
- b. Australian marriage certificate issued by a state or territory (church or celebrant-issued certificates are not accepted)
- c. Current passport issued by a country other than Australia with a valid entry stamp or visa
- d. Current proof of age or photo identity card issued by an Australian government agency in the name of the applicant with photo and signature.

Secondary documents

- a. Medicare card
- b. Bank card
- c. Credit card
- d. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Certificate of identity
- e. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Document of identity
- f. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Convention travel document secondary (United Nations)
- g. Foreign government issued documents (for example driver licence)
- h. Australian Electoral Commission enrolment
- i. Security guard or crowd control photo licence
- j. Evidence of right to a government benefit (Centrelink or Veterans Affairs)
- k. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Consular photo identity card
- l. Police force – Photo identity card
- m. Australian Defence Force – Photo identity card
- n. Australian Government or a state or territory government – Photo identity card
- o. Aviation Security Identification Card
- p. Maritime Security Identification Card
- q. Australian tertiary student photo identity document
- r. Certified academic transcript from an Australian university.

Change of name

If you provide identity documents using a former name, you must provide evidence of your name change. This means providing a change of name certificate issued by the Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages or an Australian marriage certificate issued by a state or territory, in addition to your four identity documents. Church or celebrant-issued certificates are not accepted.

Special provisions for proof of identity

The ACIC recognises that in exceptional circumstances you may not be able to meet the minimum proof of identity requirements. Please contact DoH, who will assess your ability to meet the requirements and determine the most suitable method to confirm your identity.

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

Produced by Health Networks
© Department of Health 2021

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.

HEN-013977 APR 21

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

Produced by Health Networks
© Department of Health 2021

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.