



## RFBI's Voluntary Assisted Dying Position Statement

The purpose of this position statement is to outline RFBI's stance on the recently introduced *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021* (NSW) (VAD Act). The Act was passed on 19 May 2022 and will commence operation in New South Wales from 28 November 2023. The Act is currently only relevant to NSW services as legislation has not yet been passed in the ACT.

Under the VAD Act, aged care providers can choose whether or not to participate in the New South Wales voluntary assisted dying system. RFBI supports the right of a consumer to make an informed end-of-life decision when they have capacity to do so and provided the decision is in line with the VAD Act. While RFBI does not provide VAD services, RFBI will support any consumer who wishes to explore or consider voluntary assisted dying.

Consistent with RFBI's decision to not offer VAD services, RFBI will not:

- (a) hinder a consumer's right to access information or their right to make a request about voluntary assisted dying; and
- (b) hinder a consumer's family member from accessing information about voluntary assisted dying; and
- (c) hinder access by an authorised voluntary assisted dying practitioner or Voluntary Assisted Dying Care Navigator Service (VAD CNS) to a RFBI service to provide information or advice to a consumer, where the access is requested by a consumer or otherwise required under the relevant legislation;
- (d) initiate a conversation with a consumer about voluntary assisted dying or suggest voluntary assisted dying to a consumer; and
- (e) induce a consumer to make a request for access to VAD, to access VAD, or to self-administer a VAD substance.

In relation to VAD services, RFBI employees will not:

- (a) actively participate in the request and assessment process,
- (b) participate in an administration decision,
- (c) prescribe, supply or administer a voluntary assisted dying substance,
- (d) store a voluntary assisted dying substance,
- (e) be present at the time of the administration or self-administration of a voluntary assisted dying substance.



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RFBI will respect the privacy of consumers throughout the voluntary assisted dying process and will continue to support consumers, including the continuation of medical treatment and care, access to their medical practitioner and providing psychological and spiritual support at RFBI village's.

While RFBI does not provide VAD Services, RFBI will otherwise comply with the requirements of the VAD Act.

Prior to entering one of our residential aged care services, we will provide consumers (or their representative) with a residential aged care agreement. The residential aged care agreement contains all terms and conditions associated with the accommodation, care and services that RFBI will provide. The terms of RFBI's resident agreement reflect RFBI's position on voluntary assisted dying.

If you would like to discuss this position further, please contact our Chief of Operations, Louanne Riboldi on 02 8031 3200 or email [enquiries@rfbi.com.au](mailto:enquiries@rfbi.com.au).