



Voluntary Assisted Dying – Position Statement

As a Catholic aged care organisation, The Society of Saint Hilarion Inc. Aged Care (SSH) believes in the sacredness of human life, and this informs all responses to those who are sick and vulnerable. From its inception, the mission of SSH has been to ensure that the elderly within our community is cared for with respect, dignity, and empathy and therefore we hold a view that it is against our fundamental values to purposefully end an individual's life through Voluntary Assisted Dying. Our future vision is to deliver wellbeing for all our Residents inspired by the Saint Hilarion ethos, employing a best practice framework.

We believe high quality aged care is fundamental to allowing people to live a purposeful life and the provision of palliative care and end-of-life care are the best options to allow freedom of choice, comfort, dignity, and respect as a person nears the end of life. It is our position that the prescription of a lethal substance to a person to help them end their own life, or the administration of a lethal substance to a person by a health practitioner to end their life, are part of end-of-life care. It is these acts which are legal under South Australia's Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021. The law allows aged care providers in South Australia to choose whether to participate in the State's Voluntary Assisted Dying system. In line with our ethos and vision, mission, and values, we will not provide Voluntary Assisted Dying at any of our homes or services.

We recognise that some people may wish to explore the option of Voluntary Assisted Dying while under our care and SSH are committed to receiving enquiries about Voluntary Assisted Dying in a compassionate and respectful manner. If a person under our care wishes to access Voluntary Assisted Dying from an external provider, we will not impede them. We will also continue to respect the privacy of each person's own home, within our facilities, which includes honouring the privacy of consultations with any external health care practitioners.

We will always maintain our commitment to care for those under our care who are considering or pursuing Voluntary Assisted Dying. We will abide by all relevant South Australian legislation.

Further information on Voluntary Assisted Dying can be found on the SA Health website - [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).