

Your life, your choice

Medical treatment decisions



You can choose someone now to be your **medical treatment decision-maker** if something happens to you in the future and you cannot make medical treatment decisions for yourself.



By appointing a **medical treatment decision-maker**, you are giving this person the legal authority to consent to or refuse treatment on your behalf. The person you choose should be someone you trust to respect and carry out your wishes. This could be your partner or an adult child. You can only choose one person to be your **medical treatment decision-maker**. If it is an emergency, the doctors can treat you without getting consent.

Don't worry if you haven't chosen a medical treatment decision-maker, the doctors can talk to a family member such as your partner, carer, adult child, parent or brother or sister. If you don't have anyone, then the Office of the Public Advocate can act on your behalf.

Advance care planning

Advance care planning is when you make a plan for your future health and personal care. You do this by writing down what you want or do not want, if you get sick.

It can help your family to make medical treatment decisions for you so they don't have to guess or disagree about what you would want. For example, under certain circumstances, you might decide that you don't want to be revived.

You can make an advance care plan by filling out a form. The Office of the Public Advocate has this form. You need to sign the form in front of your doctor.

Supportive attorney

Sometimes it is not easy to make a decision or talk to organisations such as hospitals, banks, and electricity, gas and phone companies. You may have a disability that makes it hard to communicate or maybe you are just not comfortable with making those types of calls or enquiries.

You can appoint a 'supportive attorney'. A 'supportive attorney' is where you choose someone, a family member or friend, to support you in making your own decisions. The appointment is made by completing a legal form, where the person you choose has the authority to talk to services on your behalf, get information about you on your behalf and talk about what you want. You are still in charge!

For more information

If you have questions you can call:

Office of the Public Advocate

Phone 1300 309 337

www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au

Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service

Phone 1800 064 865

www.vals.org.au

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Legal Service**

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