



End of Life Law in Australia

A website to help the community understand the law at end of life

End of Life Law in Australia (<https://end-of-life.qut.edu.au/>) is a website that provides accurate, practical information to assist the community to navigate the challenging legal issues that can arise with end of life decision-making. It is designed for individuals, families, health and legal professionals, the media, policy makers and the broader community to access information about Australian laws relating to death, dying and end of life decision-making. The website was created by Professors [Ben White](#) and [Lindy Willmott](#), and Penny Neller (Project Coordinator) from the [Australian Centre for Health Law Research](#), Faculty of Law, Queensland University of Technology.



About the website

As Australia's population rapidly ages, legal and ethical issues at the end of life are arising more frequently. Research shows the law in this area is complex and often confusing for individuals, their families, clinicians and health professionals, and that barriers to accessible information exist. Our goal is to support the community to know and better understand the law at end of life, enhance individuals and family participation in decision-making, and improve end of life experiences.

End of Life Law in Australia seeks to assist people at all stages of life whether they are dealing with an end of life situation personally, or educating themselves about the law in this area. It addresses some frequently asked questions such as:

- Who makes medical treatment decisions for a person who is too unwell to make decisions themselves?

- Does a doctor have to follow the instructions in an Advance Care Directive?
- Is euthanasia and assisted dying legal in Australia?
- Can a child with a terminal illness make their own medical treatment decisions?
- What happens if family members disagree with a person's decision to donate their organs when they die?

How to use the website

End of Life Law in Australia provides information on a range of topics including capacity and consent to treatment, Advance Care Directives, withholding and withdrawing life-sustaining treatment, palliative medication, organ donation, euthanasia and assisted dying, futile treatment, and emergency treatment.

You can select a topic to explore a legal issue, or, where the law differs between Australian States and Territories, you can select the webpage which explains the law in a particular jurisdiction.

There is also a Legal Overview section which outlines fundamental concepts, a Glossary of end of life and health law terms, and links to external resources you may find useful.

Subscribe for updates

To receive emails about recent developments in end of life law please [subscribe here](#).

ELLC End of Life Law for Clinicians



About *End of Life Law for Clinicians*

End of Life Law for Clinicians (ELLC) is a national training program for clinicians and medical students about end of life law in clinical practice. The training draws on content from *End of Life Law in Australia*. Online training and workshops are available.

Visit the [ELLC online training portal](#) to complete training modules. For workshop information visit [End of Life Law in Australia](#). For further information about ELLC email endoflifelaw@qut.edu.au.

Australian Centre for Health Law Research

The Australian Centre for Health Law Research is a specialist research centre which undertakes research into complex problems and emerging challenges in health law, ethics, technology, governance and public policy. The Centre's researchers engage in transdisciplinary research with colleagues in Australia and internationally to achieve outcomes which make a difference.

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