End of Life Law in Australia

A website for clinicians and health professionals about 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 for clinicians and health professionals about Australian laws relating to death, dying and end of life decision-making. It can also assist them to navigate the challenging legal issues that can arise in clinical practice when caring for people approaching the end of their life. 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, posing challenges for health professionals. Research shows the law in this area is complex and often confusing for health professionals, individuals and their families, and that barriers to accessible information exist.

Our goal is to support clinicians and health professionals to know and better understand the law at end of life, assist them in navigating the challenging legal issues that can arise in clinical practice, and improve end of life experiences for clinicians and health professionals, individuals and families.

End of Life Law in Australia provide answers about the law for clinicians and health professionals whether they are dealing with an end of life situation professionally or personally, or educating themselves about the law in this area. It addresses some frequently asked questions such as:

- Who is the legally recognised substitute decision-maker for a person who has lost capacity?
- Does a doctor have to follow the instructions in a person's Advance Care Directive?
- Is physician-assisted dying legal in Australia?
- Can a child with a terminal illness make their own medical treatment decisions?
- What are a doctor's legal obligations if a person's family requests futile treatment?

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.

Contact

Australian Centre for Health Law Research

Phone +61 7 3138 2712
Fax +61 7 3138 2222
Email achlr@qut.edu.au
https://research.qut.edu.au/achlr/

Twitter @HealthLawQUT