



End of Life Law in Australia

A website to help health professionals with the law at end of life

End of Life Law in Australia (<https://end-of-life.qut.edu.au/>) is a website created by the Australian Centre for Health Law Research, Faculty of Law, Queensland University of Technology. It provides accurate, practical and relevant information to assist health professionals to access information about Australian laws relating to death, dying and decision-making at the end of life, and to navigate the challenging legal issues that can arise in clinical practice when caring for patients approaching the end of their life.



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, patients and families, and that barriers to accessible information exist.

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

End of Life Law in Australia seeks to provide answers about the law for 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 patient who has lost capacity?
- Does a doctor have to follow the instructions in a patient's advance 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 patient's family requests futile treatment?

How to use the website

End of Life Law in Australia provides information on a range of topics including advance directives, withholding and withdrawing life-sustaining treatment, palliative care, organ donation, and euthanasia and assisted dying.

You can select a topic to explore a legal issue, and 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 which outlines fundamental concepts, a Glossary of health law terms, and links to external resources you may find useful.

Subscribe for updates

To receive emails about recent developments in the area of end of life law, please email achlr@qut.edu.au with the words 'subscribe website' in the subject line.

The 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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