

## Voluntary Assisted Dying Disclosure Statement

The *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021* (VAD Act) was passed in September 2021. Voluntary assisted dying will commence operation in Queensland from 1 January 2023.

The VAD Act allows aged care providers to choose whether or not to participate in Queensland's voluntary assisted dying scheme.

**Bethany Christian Care does not provide voluntary assisted dying services at our aged care homes.**

Our decision not to participate in Queensland's voluntary assisted dying scheme is informed by our Christian faith and beliefs, and also our approach to care and community. In particular:

- **Our Christian faith and beliefs** – We believe that to approve, support, assist, facilitate or participate in purposefully ending a person's life through voluntary assisted dying constitutes an essential departure from Christian faithfulness and witness.
- **Our model of care** - We believe that purposefully ending a person's life through voluntary assisted dying is incompatible with the model of care which we have developed and delivered for many decades which is founded on our Christian faith and beliefs. We seek to support people in our care to have “abundant lives”. We believe that voluntary assisted dying is incompatible with this objective.
- **Our community** – Each of our aged care homes is a home for many residents, and a community of residents, staff, volunteers and families. Voluntary assisted dying occurring in an aged care home would negatively impact other residents of that home and members of that community. Many of our residents, staff, volunteers and families share our Christian faith and beliefs. Accordingly, our decision not to provide voluntary assisted dying services is consistent with the expectations of many of our community of residents, staff, volunteers and families.

While we do not provide voluntary assisted dying services under the VAD Act, we will respond in a sensitive and respectful manner to any resident who expresses a wish to explore or consider voluntary assisted dying.



Consistent with our right to choose not to offer voluntary assisted dying services, Bethany Christian Care will not:

- Intentionally take steps to help a person end their own life, nor intentionally assist a resident to take their own life;
- Hasten a resident's death;
- Participate in assessments undertaken for the purpose of a resident accessing voluntary assisted dying; or
- Provide a substance for the purposes of administering to a resident who has chosen to access voluntary assisted dying.

In relation to palliative and end of life care generally, Bethany Christian Care will continue to:

- Provide holistic, comprehensive palliative care (including end of life care);
- Empower a resident (or their substitute decision makers) to actively participate in decision-making regarding their end-of-life treatment and care (including through the use of advance care planning);
- Address the physical, spiritual, psychological and social needs of a resident and their family, including existential distress, with the goal of reducing suffering;
- Actively support and accompany a resident who is nearing end of life.