



MercyCare's End of Life Statement

MercyCare seeks to recognise and uphold the dignity of every person through our commitment to the provision of high-quality, safe and person-centred care and services.

MercyCare is committed to delivering supportive and palliative care to promote quality of life and allow a person to continue to live and die with dignity. The focus is on comfort care, reduction of suffering and support throughout the end of life journey which can bring experiences of loss and grief. We take a holistic approach that is attentive to physical, emotional, psychological, social and spiritual needs.

MercyCare shares the Catholic understanding that all life is sacred from conception to death, and therefore believes in providing compassionate care that neither prolongs dying nor hastens death.

In terms of end of life journey, this means we recognise a person's right to accept, refuse and/or discontinue the use of life-sustaining treatment and to allow death to occur. However, we hold the position there is a critical ethical difference between allowing death to occur and intentionally ending a person's life.

MercyCare will not participate or directly cooperate in Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD). Whilst MercyCare will not engage in any activity whose primary purpose or intention is to cause the death of a person, we remain committed to providing quality care that is not affected by a person's decision to engage with VAD.

