

People who lack capacity (ability) to do Advance Care Planning

Only a person with capacity can appoint someone as their Medical Treatment Decision Maker or complete a Victorian Advance Care Directive.

Advance Care Directives are intended to be completed by a person for themselves. Even if a person lacks capacity to complete an Instructional Directive, they may be quite able to communicate what is important to them using a Values Directive.

In practice, there are documents called Advance Care Plans that are completed on behalf of a person lacking capacity to do so. The person completing them should be trying to write down what they already know about the person's preferences and values. That is, they should seek to make a written record of past verbal Advance Care Planning.

At Northern Health, our preference would be to use the Victorian Form –

‘What I understand to be the person’s preferences and values’ form: information to help guide future medical decisions for a person who is unable to express their own preferences.’

This form is for people who cannot make medical decisions or express what they want.

It can be completed by the Medical Treatment Decision Maker and/or others the person knows well. Sometimes, this may be a professional carer. Sadly, some people have no family or friends.

What is written in this form will help the Medical Treatment Decision Maker and health professionals to make the medical decisions that the person would want.

If there is no Medical Treatment Decision Maker, then someone from the Office of the Public Advocate may be required to consent to the person's treatment, and the

information in this form will be very helpful for them to understand what is important to the person.

Preferences and Values form.

What I understand to be the person's preferences and values:

Information to help guide future medical decisions for a person who is unable to express their own preferences

Before you begin, please take a moment to read these instructions

Who is this form for?

If a person has already completed their own Advance Care Directive the information in that document is given priority in medical decision-making over information in this form.

This form is only for people who cannot make medical decisions or express what they want. If a person can clearly express their preferences regarding medical treatment, even if they need assistance to write them down, they should complete an Advance Care Directive. Advance Care Directive forms are available on the Office of the Public Advocate website www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au or by phoning the Office of the Public Advocate 1300 309 337.

This form records information about a person who cannot express their preferences about medical treatment. What you write in this form will help the Medical Treatment Decision Maker, together with the health professionals, make medical decisions that the person would want.

Who can complete this form?

This form can be completed by one or more people who know the person well. This can include:

- the person's Medical Treatment Decision Maker (see page iii of these instructions for more information)
- a family member, carer or close friend
- a professional care worker who the person has known for some time and who has knowledge of what is important to the person.

How can information in this form be helpful?

A Medical Treatment Decision Maker makes medical decisions for a person when that person cannot make their own decisions. The decisions should reflect what the Medical Treatment Decision Maker knows about the person's preferences for medical treatment and about what the person values most. The decision should be what the person would want; not what others want.

Medical decisions are made in the context of: the person's illness; how their illness is progressing; what has caused any current change; and how likely it is that an episode of worsening health can be reversed. Health professionals will make this assessment and offer treatment options to be considered by the Medical Treatment Decision Maker.

✓ *When the Medical Treatment Decision Maker and the health professionals work in partnership, they bring together their different areas of knowledge and expertise, to achieve the best possible outcomes for the person.*