



Government of
South Australia



ADVANCE CARE DIRECTIVES COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT

For more information,
Visit www.advancecaredirectives.sa.gov.au



Communications toolkit

About this communications toolkit

This communications toolkit provides individuals and organisations with information and materials that can be used to promote the new and improved Advance Care Directive.

Tools include:

- Key messages
- Newsletter content
- Social media content
- Posters / brochures / social media assets / website promo panel / email signature banner

Download the visual tools

From 1 March 2024, you can download the visual communications tools like, posters, brochures, and social media assets directly from our [website](#). To obtain print-ready files for professional printing, please visit the website to access the [order portal](#).

Contact

The Department for Health and Wellbeing's End of Life Care team in Health Services Programs Branch leads programs and projects that aim to improve access and quality of care for all South Australians. For questions related to Advance Care Directives, please contact Health.AdvanceCarePlanning@sa.gov.au

For questions related to the communications toolkit, please contact Communications at the Department for Health and Wellbeing healthcommunications@sa.gov.au

Key messages

What led to the improvements of the Advance Care Directive Kit?

Improvements have been made to the Government of South Australia's Advance Care Directive documents in response to the 2019 legislative review by Professor Wendy Lacey and feedback received from the public, key stakeholders and the health sector.

The Advance Care Directives (Review) Amendment Bill 2022, which passed Parliament on 30 November 2023, was introduced in response to [Report on the Review of the Advance Care Directives Act 2013 \(SA\) \(PDF 1MB\)](#). These amendments included:

- strengthening requirements for interpreters, for people making Advance Care Directives where English is not their first language;
- clarifying the effect of an Advance Care Directive in suspected suicide or self-harm attempts;
- recognising digital copies of Advance Care Directives as valid and legal copies; and
- empowering Substitute Decision-Makers to make decisions together and/or separately and appointing them in an order of precedence.

What has changed in the Advance Care Directive?

The Advance Care Directive form now includes:

- space to write down notable health conditions, if preferred
- the ability to appoint at least four Substitute Decision-Makers (an additional downloadable form to appoint more than four is available for download from 1 March 2024 on the official ACD website, if preferred)
- space for appointing a 'first preferred' Substitute Decision-Maker, if preferred
- a section to identify willingness to become an organ donor, if preferred
- the ability to add the date your Advance Care Directive expires, if preferred; and
- the option to use digital signatures for Substitute Decision-Makers acceptance and interpreters (PDF fillable form only).

What is an Advance Care Directive?

An Advance Care Directive is a legal form that allows people aged 18 years and over to provide direction about their care in advance.

By completing an Advance Care Directive, you can make clear your preferences for your future health care, end of life care, preferred living arrangements and other personal matters.

What will it allow me to do?

It can record your wishes for your future care, including health care, end of life, preferred living arrangements and other personal matters.

It can also be used to appoint one or more adults (known as Substitute Decision-Makers) to make these decisions for you, if you are unable to make particular decisions.

Key messages (cont.)

Why do I need an Advance Care Directive?

There may be a time in your life when you can't make your own decisions. This could be because:

- of a sudden accident or serious mental health episode
- of dementia or a similar health condition
- of a serious stroke
- you are unconscious or in a coma.

If this happened to you, how would you want decisions to be made about your health care, where you live, and other personal matters? Importantly, who would you want to make these decisions for you? An Advance Care Directive can help you with that.

When will an Advance Care Directive be used?

Your Advance Care Directive can only be used if you do not have capacity to make a particular decision. For example, you may still be able to make some decisions, but not able to make others. This may be temporarily, or permanently.

Is an Advance Care Directive the same thing as a will?

An Advance Care Directive is not a will. It has no effect after your death. It is not a document for managing your financial affairs. For those matters, consider using an Enduring Power of Attorney, where you appoint a suitable person or trustee organisation to make legal and financial decisions on your behalf when you cannot make decisions yourself.

Completing an Advance Care Directive Form will replace all other documents you may have completed previously, for example an Enduring Power of Guardianship, Medical Power of Attorney or Anticipatory Direction.

Do I need to pay a lawyer to help me complete my Advance Care Directive?

No, you do not need legal input to complete an Advance Care Directive. The comprehensive step-by-step do-it-yourself guide within the Advance Care Directive Kit has been designed to help you complete your Advance Care Directive without the help of a professional, such as a lawyer.

Who can write an Advance Care Directive?

Any adult can write an Advance Care Directive, whether you are young, older, healthy or sick. To write an Advance Care Directive, it must be your choice and you must:

- be aged 18 years and older
- have decision-making capacity
- know what an Advance Care Directive is
- know what it will be used for and when it will be used.

Key messages (cont.)

What do I do once I complete my Advance Care Directive?

Remember to give a certified copy of your Advance Care Directive to any appointed Substitute Decision-Makers, loved ones, family, family of choice or friends.

It is recommended you also give a certified copy to your doctor, health service and/or aged care facility and upload a copy to your electronic health record, such as My Health Record.

What does the Advance Care Directive Kit contain?

- A Do-It-Yourself Guide
- One Advance Care Directive Form
- The Information Statement
- Information for Substitute Decision-Makers
- Information for Witnesses
- Information for Interpreters
- A wallet card.

Where can I get an Advance Care Directive and does it cost anything?

Visit the Advance Care Directives website: www.advancecaredirectives.sa.gov.au

Here you can:

- Download and print the Advance Care Directive Form and supporting information for FREE.
- Complete the interactive Advance Care Directive Form online for FREE, with guidance on how to complete each section.
- Pick up a FREE hard copy of the Advance Care Directive Kit from select libraries and Service SA locations.
- You can also order a copy via the Service SA website to be sent to a nominated address (postage fees apply).
- View the full list of collection points on our website to pick up a FREE hard copy of the Advance Care Directive Kit.



Draft newsletter content

New and improved Advance Care Directive Kit

An Advance Care Directive is a legal form that plays a significant role in ensuring that your wishes for future care known in the event you're unable to communicate due to an illness or injury.

Improvements have recently been made to the Government of South Australia's Advance Care Directive Kit in response to feedback received from the public, key stakeholders and the health sector.

The updated Advance Care Directive Kit has a contemporary look and is easier to understand and complete.

If you're unsure where to begin or need guidance throughout the process, the Advance Care Directive Kit takes you through it step-by-step.

The Kit includes a step-by-step guide as well as the required form and documents so you can complete an Advance Care Directive yourself without help from a professional, such as a lawyer.

Let's encourage one another to have these important conversations and take control of our health care decisions.

Visit www.advancecaredirectives.sa.gov.au to download free resources or view the full list of collection points for a FREE hard copy Advance Care Directive Kit.

Draft social media content

Option 1:

There may be a time in your life when you can't make your own decisions. This could be because of a sudden accident or illness.

If this happened, how would you want decisions to be made about your health care? Who would you want to make these decisions for you?

Take the time to complete an Advance Care Directive and make your wishes for future care known.

Visit www.advancecaredirectives.sa.gov.au to download free resources or view the full list of collection points for a FREE hard copy of the Advance Care Directive Kit.

The kit includes a step-by-step guide as well as the required forms so you can complete an Advance Care Directive yourself without help from a professional, like a lawyer.

Option 2:

Life is full of uncertainties, and it's crucial to plan for our future, especially when it comes to our health.

An Advance Care Directive is a legal form that allows you to make your wishes for future care known in the event you're unable to communicate due to an illness or injury.

If you're unsure how to start, the Advance Care Directive Kit includes a step-by-step guide as well as the required forms so you can complete an Advance Care Directive yourself without help from a professional, like a lawyer.

Visit www.advancecaredirectives.sa.gov.au to download free resources or view the full list of collection points for a FREE hard copy of the Advance Care Directive Kit.

Option 3:

An Advance Care Directive empowers you to make decisions about your future health care based on your values, beliefs, and what matters most to you. It ensures your wishes for future care are known if you are unable to speak or make particular decisions for yourself due to an illness or injury.

The new and improved Advance Care Directive Kit includes a step-by-step guide, an Advance Care Directive Form and more.

Visit www.advancecaredirectives.sa.gov.au to download free resources or view the full list of collection points for a FREE hard copy of the Advance Care Directive Kit.

Resources

Resources can be used to promote completing an Advance Care Directive. The resources include social media tiles, a website promo panel, posters, brochures and an email signature block. You can download these visual communications tools directly from [our website](#). To obtain print-ready files for professional printing, please visit the website to access the [order portal](#).

You can choose to use these resources in one (or more) of the following ways:

- Download and print our posters or brochures
- Share social media assets and post on your organisation’s social media platform
- Display the website promo panel on your website with a link to the website.
- Update your email signature with an embedded link to www.advancecaredirectives.sa.gov.au



Email signature banner



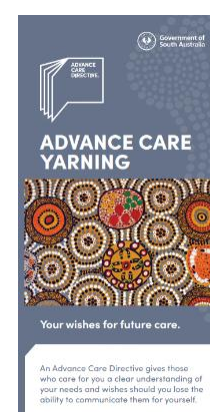
Website promo panel



Posters



Brochures: standard brochure, brochure for Aboriginal community.



Social media assets

