



An Australian Government Initiative



DEMENTIA
TRAINING
STUDY CENTRES
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dementia Training Study Centres

Advanced Care Planning 'What it is and why it is important'

All information and links kindly provided by
Professor Colleen Cartwright

Professor Cartwright has facilitated an information seminar for the WA Dementia Training Study Centre on this topic which can be viewed at <http://dbs.ilectures.curtin.edu.au/lectopia/lectopia.lasso?ut=986&id=96294>.

Advance Care Planning is a process that allows a competent person to make and communicate – in advance- decisions about their health care (including medical and dental treatment) for future time when they have lost capacity eg: treatment wanted or not wanted under specific conditions.

Ideally it involves a discussion between the patient, their health care provider and their carer/family/friends, about their values, beliefs and wishes for end-of-life care.



It also includes recording those decisions.

If there is no Advance Health Directive or Enduring Guardian in Western Australia the 'Person Responsible' is the first reasonably available (and culturally appropriate) adult of full legal capacity, willing to make treatment decisions:

- A spouse of de facto (includes same-sex partners 'Respect my decisions: it's my right' can be viewed at <http://aslarc.scu.edu.au/respect%20my%20decisions%20ITS%20MY%20RIGHT%20-%20May%202011.pdf>)
- Adult son or daughter
- Parent
- Sibling
- A (non professional) carer
- A person with a close personal relationship (not necessarily next-of-kin and may not be the person the patient would have chosen to make their decision)

To find out more information you can access and complete the documents listed below:

Enduring Power of Guardianship

http://www.publicadvocate.wa.gov.au/E/enduring_power_of_guardianship.aspx

Advance Health Directive

http://www.health.wa.gov.au/docreg/education/population/OA004251_preparing_an_advance_health_directive.pdf.

Enduring Powers of Attorney

http://www.publicadvocate.wa.gov.au/_files/EPA_Guide.pdf



A report for Alzheimer's Australia, 'Planning for the End of Life for People with Dementia' by Professor Colleen Cartwright, Part One and Part Two explains the legal options that people can exercise now in respect of planning for the end of life. These include Advance Care Planning, preferred place to die, refusal of treatment and withdrawal of treatment. They consider what additional options might become available in the future that people with dementia could access toward the end of their lives. These could include euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Part One:

http://www.fightdementia.org.au/common/files/NAT/20110331_Nat_Paper_23_EndofLife.pdf

Part Two:

http://www.fightdementia.org.au/common/files/NAT/20110503_Nat_Paper_EoLP2.pdf

Professor Cartwright also has additional information on her extremely helpful website at <http://aslarc.scu.edu.au/>.