



Advance Care Planning Improvement Toolkit: Australian Capital Territory

2022

**Advance Care
Planning Australia**

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Acknowledgements

Advance Care Planning Australia is funded by the Australian Government.

Advance Care Planning Australia delivers national advance care planning leadership, advocacy, communications, support services, the advance care planning improvement toolkit, and education and information resources for consumers, the health and aged care workforce, and/or service providers.

Our program is focused on improving advance care planning policy and systems, community awareness, understanding and uptake, workforce capability, and quality monitoring and evidence.

We promote a national collaborative approach to achieving excellence in advance care planning. We acknowledge the valuable advance care planning work being undertaken by others throughout Australia and internationally. This initiative was informed by the *Prevalence of Advance Care Planning Documentation in Australian Health and Residential Aged Care Services Study*. The evaluation was undertaken with the support and advice of Dr Craig Sinclair (University of New South Wales) and Associate Professor Kim Devery and Dr Claire Hutchinson (Flinders University).

Further information regarding this toolkit can be obtained by contacting Advance Care Planning Australia, phone 1300 208 582 or email admin@advancecareplanning.org.au. A copy of this toolkit is available at advancecareplanning.org.au.

Advance Care Planning Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging. We celebrate, value, and include people of all backgrounds, genders, sexualities, cultures, bodies, and abilities.

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Disclaimer:

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Advance Care Planning Improvement Toolkit: Australian Capital Territory

The Advance Care Planning Improvement Toolkit ('ACPI Toolkit') has been implemented to support aged care and health service organisations to assess and improve the uptake and quality of advance care planning, ensuring more Australians have choice and control over their future treatment decisions.

Advance Care Planning Australia has developed the ACPI Toolkit following national consultation, a rapid literature review, systematic environmental scan and analysis of similar audit resources, adaption of the *Prevalence of Advance Care Planning Documentation in Australian Health and Residential Aged Care Services Study* ('Prevalence Study') resources, and evaluation.

The ACPI Toolkit is aligned with the Aged Care Quality Standards and the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards. Due to the differences in law across the States and Territories, a toolkit has been designed for each jurisdiction. For organisations that have sites in multiple states and territories, it is recommended that you use multiple toolkits.

Advance care planning in Australia

Advance care planning is concerned with ensuring more Australians have choice and control over their future treatment decisions. Currently, only an estimated 15% of Australians have documented their preferences for care in an Advance Care Directive.

Advance care planning is a process of planning for future health and personal care whereby the person's values, beliefs and preferences are made known to guide decision-making at a future time when that person cannot make or communicate their decisions.

Registered and non-registered health practitioners have a role in advance care planning and require capability to facilitate these conversations effectively. The National Quality Standards for aged care, general practice and health services all promote advance care planning.

National framework for advance care planning documents, 2021 (Page 4)

Advance Care Planning Australia (ACPA) has previously supported aged care and health service organisations to understand their advance care planning uptake as part of the national Prevalence Study.

The key findings from a national audit conducted in October 2018 – February 2019 include:

- Only 14% of older Australians had a statutory or common law advance care directive (ACD) for preferences of care and/or to appoint a substitute decision-maker. The prevalence across sectors was 6% in General Practice, 11% in hospitals, and 38% in residential aged care.
- When including non-ACD documentation (planning documents completed by a doctor or someone else), only 29% of older Australians had documentation to inform future medical treatment decisions and end-of-life care.
- For older Australians in residential aged care, 30% of documents were advance care plans completed by someone else (e.g., a family member or carer), with 65% of these including life-limiting instructions and only 25% indicating that a discussion took place with the person the instructions relate to.
- Low prevalence is complicated by poor document quality, with 27% of documents missing important quality identifiers such as full name, signature, document date, and/or witnessing.
- Having a discussion about advance care planning with anyone (including a clinician), made a person three times more likely to document an advance care directive.
- An analysis of the 62 participating organisations across 100 sites, found that only 18 organisations across 29 sites had a valid (in date and referring to correct legislation) advance care planning policy.
- Voluntary participation by 151 aged care and health service organisations demonstrated a commitment to advance care planning performance monitoring.

How to use the ACPI Toolkit

The ACPI Toolkit is a quality improvement resource designed to assess and improve the uptake and quality of advance care planning, supporting people to have choice and control over their future treatment decisions. This toolkit will also support organisations to monitor their progress against quality standards and generate an evidence base that can help drive quality improvement.

This toolkit provides information on how to prepare and conduct the audits, how to analyse and report information, the audit and survey tools, reporting templates, auditor guidance, and resources to support quality improvement for any areas of improvement identified.

The toolkit consists of three different areas of focus:

1. Advance care planning organisational systems
2. Advance care planning documents in health records
3. Advance care planning consumer experience

It is recommended that your organisation assess and improve all three areas of focus. However, your organisation may wish to only focus on one area at a time. Annual auditing is recommended for best practice.

PLEASE NOTE:

ACPA strongly recommends you do not change any of the audit questions, as these have been developed following national consultation.

Using the same audit questions for your first and future audits also promotes consistent data collection for benchmarking and comparison, if required.

The ACPI Toolkit is most likely to be implemented by quality coordinators, nurses, care workers, allied health assistants or professionals, and/or students. These people will be referred to as the auditor(s) throughout this manual. An auditor should read this manual in full to ensure adequate knowledge of, and a consistent approach to, data collection.

How to prepare for the audit

The following section provides information on how to prepare for the audit(s). At the end of this section, a checklist will help you ensure all relevant tasks have been completed before beginning the audit(s).

Download audit tools

The three audit tools and their related reports are available in this document (see Appendix 1 and 2). These documents can be requested in Word format or as a digital survey by contacting admin@advancecareplanning.org.au.

Leadership, staff engagement and support

It is important that the implementation of the ACPI Toolkit is supported and endorsed by your organisation's executive, management and/or the relevant governance committee.

Your organisation should nominate an advance care planning leader(s) from the outset that will be responsible for advance care planning quality improvement.

All auditors and other relevant staff should be aware of the following before an audit begins:

- the ACPI Toolkit
- the role of the auditor(s)
- when the audits are taking place
- advance care planning quality improvement priorities for your organisation.

Ethics approval

Before the audit(s), determine whether ethics approval is required by your organisation. Generally, audits and surveys conducted solely for internal quality improvement will not require ethics approval, but research studies will.

Regardless of whether ethics approval is required, ethical practice and standards, including confidentiality and privacy, should be always upheld.

Auditor training and guidance

Auditor guidance is most relevant for the advance care planning health records audit to ensure reliable and comparable data collection. Auditors should ensure a comprehensive understanding of advance care planning documents and how to categorise documents identified during the audit.

For further information on auditor guidance, see Appendix 3.

Checklist: Preparing for the audit

Initiating the audit process

- Gain support/approval from all relevant leadership**
 - Organisational executives, management and/or governance committee
 - Ethics committee (if required)
- Identify and engage ACP leadership and audit team**
 - Organisational leaders responsible for advance care planning quality improvement
 - Audit team members

Identifying the work

- Determine which audits will be conducted
 - Organisational systems audit
 - Health record audit
 - Consumer experience audit
- Determine which organisational areas the audits will target
 - Entire organisation
 - Single site (if multiple sites exist)
 - Organisational unit/ward only

Coordinating resources for the audit

- Prepare the audit team
 - Ensure auditors receive appropriate training (if needed)
 - Ensure auditors are familiar with audit toolkit and resources
 - Ensure auditors are aware of quality improvement priorities
 - Allocate audit roles to auditors. If more than one audit is being conducted simultaneously, consider creating separate audit teams
- Prepare all the audit tools/resources
 - Access all relevant tools and templates prior to beginning the audit - templates available in toolkit and can be requested in Word format or digital survey
 - Ensure auditors have access to all relevant audit tools, templates, organisational systems and/or health records

Setting the audit schedule

- Develop and circulate a timeline
 - Set clear audit completion timeframes and deadlines for each task
 - Receive approval from appropriate leaders/committees for project time frames (if required)
 - Ensure audit team is aware of agreed deadlines

How to conduct the audits

The following table describes and summarises the audit data collection process.

At the end of this section, a checklist will help you ensure all relevant tasks have been completed before finalising the audit(s).

Table 1. Summary of methods

Advance care planning organisational systems audit	
Audit description	Assesses what systems are in place to facilitate advance care planning such as leadership, governance, policies, workforce capability, and risk management.
Eligibility criteria	An aged care or health service organisation that might include multiple sites.
Audit requirements	The auditor must have access to information about the organisation and its systems to collect data.
Advance care planning documents in health records audit	
Audit description	Assesses the prevalence, type, and quality of advance care planning documents.
Eligibility criteria	<p>A health record of a person who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is ≥ 18 years of age; and • has been admitted for ≥ 48 hours to the aged care or health service organisation. <p>The ACP document must be in English.</p>
Audit requirements	<p>The auditor must have access to the patient/client health records (paper and/or electronic).</p> <p>A minimum of 30 randomly selected health records should be audited.</p> <p>Attempt to locate relevant ACP documentation within 15 minutes of opening the record. Record the time taken to locate the ACP document using a stopwatch / device. Once timer is stopped, collect relevant data from the record for the audit. If no ACP document is located within 15 minutes of opening the record, document a failure to locate ACP document within the 15-minute timeframe.</p> <p>See Appendix 3 for guidance.</p>
Advance care planning consumer experience survey	
Audit description	Assesses the consumer's experience of advance care planning at your organisation.
Eligibility criteria	A person with capacity to complete the survey with or without the support of their enduring power of attorney (e.g., a carer) or a health professional.
Audit requirements	<p>The auditor (or someone else in your organisation) distributes the survey to a sample of those who meet the eligibility criteria.</p> <p>The survey should be voluntary. Willingness to complete the survey implies consent.</p>

Collect data

The ACPI Toolkit collects a range of data. Data collection should remain consistent across aged care and health service organisations to enable and promote benchmarking and comparison.

In some circumstances, your organisation may choose to share the results of the audit with external stakeholders. Regardless of whether these results will remain internal or be provided to external stakeholders, accuracy and transparency in data analysis and reporting, as well as version tracking, is vital to good record management.

Ensure at least two auditors are independently conducting the organisational systems or health record audit to allow for reliability assessments during data analysis.

THE ACPI TOOLKIT AUDIT AND SURVEY TOOLS MUST BE USED FOR DATA COLLECTION.

Before commencing, your organisation will need to decide whether data collection will be paper-based or done electronically.

- For *paper-based data collection*, enter data into an Excel document (template available in this toolkit).
- For *electronic data collection*, data can be collected using an online survey tool that allows for an Excel data extract (e.g., SurveyMonkey).

For organisations with a SurveyMonkey account, a copy of the audit tools on SurveyMonkey can be provided by ACPA by emailing admin@advancecareplanning.org.au. Please use the subject heading *SurveyMonkey: ACPI Toolkit* and indicate your state and which audit tool(s) you want access to in the body of the email.

Analyse data

Best practice auditing should include data cleaning and assessments of data quality and reliability.

Data cleaning may include checking the accuracy of a random selection of paper-based audits against the data entered into Excel.

All data should be de-identified before any analysis is conducted.

Reliability of data collection can be checked by two auditors independently conducting the organisational systems or health record audit, comparing findings, and reviewing inconsistencies against this toolkit guidance.

Produce reports

Organisations should report key ACPI Toolkit findings and improvement priorities using the recommended reporting templates. These templates are available in this document and versions in Word format and SurveyMonkey are available by request to Advance Care Planning Australia. Data will most commonly be reported as percentages and findings described.

Reporting should be provided to the relevant clinical governance committee(s) and shared with those involved in advance care planning quality improvement, including external auditors assessing the organisation against the national quality standards.

Identify improvement priorities

An important part of reporting is the identification of areas for improvement, at either the organisational, advance care planning document, and/or consumer experience level.

The advance care planning actions and resources section may provide relevant priority activities to address areas for advance care planning improvement.

Your organisation, governance committee or team may wish to assess the implementation of improvement priorities and commit to ongoing performance monitoring.

Checklist: Conducting the audit

Collect data
<input type="checkbox"/> Decide on data collection method <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Paper-based data collection<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic data collection
<input type="checkbox"/> Collect data using the ACPI toolkit audit and survey tools provided <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Record data in appropriate data collection tool<input type="checkbox"/> Save all data files in an appropriate folder<input type="checkbox"/> De-identify all data once collected
Conduct data analysis
<input type="checkbox"/> Clean all data collected <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure all data points collected include a valid response type<input type="checkbox"/> FOR PAPER-BASED AUDITS ONLY: cross-check the accuracy of a random selection of paper-based audits against the data entered in Excel
<input type="checkbox"/> Assess the reliability of the data collection process <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure two auditors independently conduct the organisational systems and/or health record audit(s)<input type="checkbox"/> Compare findings of different auditors and review inconsistencies against guidance in this toolkit
Report audit results
<input type="checkbox"/> Produce report(s) for each audit conducted using templates provided in this toolkit <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Save all data and reports in an appropriate folder with clear document names that identify the year of the audit (e.g., Organisational Systems Audit Results 2022 V1.0)
<input type="checkbox"/> Circulate report(s) to relevant parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Organisational executives, management and/or governance committee(s)<input type="checkbox"/> Teams and individuals involved in advance care planning quality improvement, including external auditors assessing the organisation against national quality standards<input type="checkbox"/> Ethics team (if required)<input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the report(s) should be kept digitally for comparison against any future audits

**continued on next page*

Identify and action improvement priorities

- Identify and prioritise poor performance areas using the resources available in the toolkit
 - Identify areas needing improvement at the organisational level
 - Identify areas needing improvement at the advance care planning document level
 - Identify areas needing improvement at the consumer experience level
 - Once a list of all areas requiring improvement has been developed, assign priority rankings to each task (e.g., low, medium, high priority)
- Develop and action a plan for addressing improvement priorities
 - Use the actions and resources section of the toolkit to develop relevant priority activities to address areas of improvement
 - Provide the action plan to management, governance committee and/or audit team for feedback and/or approval
 - Schedule review of the action plan and next audit as required. (Your organisation may wish to commit to ongoing performance monitoring to promote continuing advance care planning quality improvement.)

Advance care planning actions and resources

In Tables 2 and 3 you will find additional advance care planning information and resources related to the audit toolkit.

Recommended actions and information are available for specific questions within the audit tool, identified by the first letter (O= organisational systems audit tool, HR= health records audit tool, and C= consumer survey tool) and number corresponding to the question in the audit tool.

Table 2. Advance care planning actions to support improvement

Topic	Relevant question(s)	Recommended actions
Clinical governance	O1	<p>Establish a clinical governance committee dedicated to advance care planning or incorporate advance care planning as part of a broader committee. (e.g., End-of-life and palliative care)</p> <p>The committee should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have terms of reference (covering membership, purpose, responsibilities, meeting frequency, reporting requirements) • meet regularly • review requirements of relevant national standards and results of audits and surveys; set and endorse improvement priorities and actions; and monitor and report outcomes • be responsible for organisational advance care planning policy. <p>For more information about implementing key clinical governance processes see the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's National Model Clinical Governance Framework</p>
Advance care planning leadership	O2	<p>Nominate an advance care planning leader(s)/champion(s) in your organisation to help implement any advance care planning activities.</p> <p>Make sure the advance care planning leader(s)/champion(s) can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the importance and requirements of advance care planning including relevant laws, policy, national standards, and consumer experience • effectively communicate and advocate for advance care planning • educate your workforce about advance care planning • act as a resource for staff, consumers, enduring power of attorney/person responsible and

Topic	Relevant question(s)	Recommended actions
		<p>consumers' loved ones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coordinate and champion advance care planning quality improvement activities • monitor the delivery of advance care planning by your workforce and report on your findings. <p>Advance Care Planning Australia offers Train the Trainer education that can provide the upskilling required to become an advance care planning leader.</p>
Partnering with consumers	O3	<p>Enable your organisation to support consumer partnerships in quality improvement initiatives.</p> <p>You may wish to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use the advance care planning consumer survey to obtain feedback from consumers about your organisation • use the organisation's existing consumer reference group e.g., Community Advisory Committee • use an informal mechanism such as a suggestion box or web-based anonymous feedback form • use consumer focus groups. <p>Ensure consumer feedback is communicated to a governance committee, where possible.</p>
Policies	O4-O9	<p>Ensure you have policies, procedures, and protocols in place in relation to advance care planning that are up-to-date and comply with the current law and policy.</p> <p><i>Content</i></p> <p>If your organisation has multiple sites, you must follow the law and policy in your particular state or territory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit Advance Care Planning Australia's website for more information about advance care planning in your state or territory. <p>You can use the policy checklist (Appendix 4) to assist with developing your policy.</p>

Topic	Relevant question(s)	Recommended actions
		<p><i>Accessibility</i></p> <p>To make sure your policies, procedures and protocols are accessible you may wish to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure the policy is in an organisation-wide policy repository and is easy to find to prevent being overlooked • promote its availability to relevant staff and their responsibilities at induction, during continuing professional development, and when reviewing outcomes of audits and surveys • promote consumer and community access to this policy due to its relevance in promoting their choice and control over future medical treatment decisions. <p><i>Review of policies</i></p> <p>Have a designated member and clinical governance committee responsible for the policy who ensures the policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reflects current law, policy, and best practice • covers the scope outlined in the policy checklist • has a review date to encourage periodic review. <p>When changes are made, communicate changes with your workforce by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • offering resources and training on any new/amended documents • notifying staff members in meetings • sending communications to workforce (e.g., emails, department newsletter).
<p>Advance care planning conversations</p>	<p>O16 C5, C8, C10</p>	<p>To assist staff to navigate advance care planning conversations the following resources are useful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance for starting advance care planning conversations • Advance care planning – advanced communications module • Dying to talk discussion starters <p>Staff should encourage consumers to formally document their preferences in a Health Direction and appoint an attorney in an Enduring Power of Attorney form.</p>

Topic	Relevant question(s)	Recommended actions
		Staff should record any values and preferences expressed to them during ACP conversations in the person's health record.
Recommended forms	O10-11 C6, C9	Have copies and promote the Australian Capital Territory's Health Direction and Enduring Power of Attorney forms. For recommended forms please visit Advance Care Planning Australia's website or the Australian Capital Territory's Government website.
Identification of advance care planning documents	O12-14 HR (all questions) C3	<p><i>Identification of advance care planning documents</i></p> <p>Ensure when a consumer enters your organisation your admission process and/or form asks the consumer (or attorney appointed on Enduring Power of Attorney) about the existence of any advance care planning documents.</p> <p>A copy of all the relevant advance care planning documents should be made available and entered into the health record. Documents should be identified as either a Health Direction /Enduring Power of Attorney (a legally binding document) or non-legally binding advance care planning document like an advance care plan intended to guide care.</p> <p><i>Quality identifiers</i></p> <p>Ensure there are systems in place so that before a Health Direction / Enduring Power of Attorney enters the health record, staff at your organisation can determine whether document formality requirements are satisfied.</p> <p>If the document does not satisfy requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the case that the consumer has decision-making capacity, then the document should be amended or revoked (and have a new document completed and entered into the health record) • in the event the document originated in another organisation, notify the organisation of this fact. • In the case the consumer has lost decision-making capacity, the preferences expressed may

Topic	Relevant question(s)	Recommended actions
		<p>be used as a guide only and may not be legally binding.</p>
<p>Storage, accessibility, and review processes</p>	<p>O15, O17-18 C4</p>	<p><i>Most up-to-date documentation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upon arrival at your organisation, confirm with the consumer that any Health Direction (or any other advance care planning document) you have access to is the most up to date version of the document. • communicate the current values and preferences documented to ensure they are still reflective of the person’s current values and preferences. If they are not, give the consumer the opportunity to update the document. <p><i>Available in the health record</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure your organisation’s admission form identifies whether a consumer has a Health Direction (or any other advance care planning document) and identifies who their attorney/health attorney is. • ensure copies of any identified documentation are included in the health record. <p><i>Readily accessible to clinicians</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incorporate information from the consumer’s Health Direction (or any other advance care planning document) into a goals of care form (or similar), palliative care plan, and/or comprehensive care plan. • ensure any advance care planning documents made during the consumer’s admission are made available to other parts of the organisation, the consumer’s GP, and any other health organisation they attend. • encourage consumers or their nominated and authorised representatives to upload advance care planning documents to My Health Record

Topic	Relevant question(s)	Recommended actions
		<p><i>Review</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourage consumers to review their Health Direction (or any other advance care planning document) annually or when circumstances change.
Consumer resources	O19-O22 C2, C11, C12	<p>Have resources available to the consumer, their attorney/health attorney, carer, and other loved ones in a variety of formats.</p> <p><i>Information resources and support services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure consumers have access to information from Advance Care Planning Australia and the Australian Capital Territory Government's website ensure your organisation makes culturally sensitive resources available to relevant consumers Advance Care Planning Australia offers a number of bilingual resources in 18 different languages and culturally sensitive learning modules. Palliative Care Australia offers a learning resource for conducting end-of-life conversations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. ELDAC offers resources for the LGBTIQ+ population.
Involving the attorney/health attorney	C7 O23	<p>Use an admission form to identify if an attorney has been appointed. If not, identify the person's health attorney by the hierarchy within the law and document this.</p> <p>Ensure consumer-centred care is inclusive of the person's attorney/health attorney.</p> <p>Make sure resources that support the attorney/ health attorney are available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance Care Planning Australia has information, a Support Service via 1300 208 582, and a dedicated education module for substitute decision-makers (i.e. attorney).
Clinical handover and transfer processes	O24-O25	<p>Have advance care planning policy inclusive of clinical handover and transfer processes.</p> <p><i>Clinical handover</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> promote a clinical handover process inclusive of Health Direction preferences if the consumer is deteriorating or being assessed for significant treatment, and is at risk of having insufficient decision-making capacity

Topic	Relevant question(s)	Recommended actions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure the most up-to-date and relevant information is communicated and necessary documents are made available • ensure staff understand their responsibilities. <p><i>Transfer processes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure transfer of consumer care between service providers and providers of transportation (e.g., ambulance officers) includes the transfer of advance care planning documents as this clinical information is intended for this use.
Assessing compliance	O26-O27	Promote death audits to assess whether treatment was provided in accordance with values and preferences documented in any advance care planning document to assess concordance.
Assessing staff understanding and confidence	O28	Use Advance Care Planning Australia’s capability framework and self-assessment tool to assess current skills levels and help to identify education opportunities to upskill.
Promoting resources to your staff	O29	<p>Ensure resources are available to your staff.</p> <p>These resources may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance Care Planning Australia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance Care Planning Australia’s website • Advance Care Planning Support Service - 1300 208 582 (available 9am – 5pm (AEST) Monday to Friday) • Advance Care Planning Australia’s referral service • End of Life Directions for Aged Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance Care Planning in Residential Aged Care • Advance Care Planning in Home Care • Advance Care Planning Primary Care • Queensland University of Technology End of Life Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources on advance care directives • Resources on treatment decisions

Topic	Relevant question(s)	Recommended actions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dementia Australia's advance care planning information for health professionals Advance Care Planning Australia's Learning Modules
Trained advance care planning facilitator	O30	<p>At least some of your staff should have undertaken specialised training in advance care planning to help deliver advance care planning education within the organisation.</p> <p>Advance Care Planning Australia's Train the Trainer Course provides this specialised training.</p>
Continuing professional development	O31	Promote staff at your organisation to complete Advance Care Planning Australia's learning modules or the organisation's local advance care planning training annually or when changes occur to law or forms to ensure advance care planning capability.
Risk management	O32-33	Consider adding items relevant to advance care planning to your organisation's incident management and investigation system. The audit tool provides a list of potential items to include.

Table 3. Advance care planning resources

Resources		
Information	Education	Other
advancecareplanning.org.au for advance care planning information and forms	ACPA Learning hub for modules	Advance care planning aged care implementation guide
ACPA National Advance Care Planning Support Service – 9am to 5pm (AEST) Monday to Friday on 1300 208 582	ACPA webinar training courses for participants and Train the Trainer	Aged care continuous improvement cycle
ACPA other languages hub for bilingual resources in 18 languages	ACPA YouTube videos including how to have advance care planning conversations	End of Life Decisions for Aged Care resources
ACPA's referral service	End of Life Law for Clinicians courses	My Health Record consumer resources
Australian Capital Territory Government's advance	Palliative Care Education and Training	My Health Record store and access advance care

care planning website	Collaborative hub	planning and goals of care guidelines
		National framework for advance care planning documents
		Policy checklist (Appendix 4)

Appendix 1: Audit Tools

Advance care planning organisational systems audit tool

This audit should only need to be completed once per year for single site organisations or multi-site organisations with central policies, processes, and governance. For other multi-site organisations, across multiple states and territories, multiple surveys may be required.

Date Completed: _____

Audit Completed by: _____

Leadership and governance

1. Is there a governance committee responsible for advance care planning within your organisation?

Yes

No

2. Is there an advance care planning champion or a clinical lead who can oversee the performance monitoring and improvement of advance care planning processes?

Yes

No

3. Are there systems in place to engage consumers in your organisation's advance care planning governance and planning to support organisational redesign?

Yes

No

Policies

4. Is there a policy, procedure and/or protocol in relation to advance care planning that can be easily accessed by staff?

Yes

No

5. Does the policy, procedure and/or protocol reference the most current advance care planning legislation (i.e., Powers of Attorney Act 2006 (ACT), Medical Treatment (Health Directions) Act 2006 (ACT))?

Yes

No

6. Is the policy, procedure and/or protocol in date? For example, not past its review due date.

Yes

No

7. Has the policy been assessed according to the policy checklist (see Appendix 4)?

Yes

No

8. If **YES**, please list any gaps identified

9. When changes are made to the organisation's advance care planning policy, are such changes communicated to the workforce?

Yes

No

Person-centred care

10. Does your organisation promote the use of Australian Capital Territory's Health Direction and/or Advance care plan Statement of Choices form enabling consumers to document their preferences for care?

Yes

No

11. Does your organisation promote the use of Australian Capital Territory's form for enabling consumers to appoint an attorney (i.e., Enduring Power of Attorney (Healthcare Matters))?

Yes

No

12. Is there a process in place to identify whether a consumer has a Health Direction, Enduring Power of Attorney form and/or Advance Care Plan Statement of Choices (Competent Person) (or other advance care planning documents) upon admission into the health service?

Yes

No

13. Is there a process in place to identify whether the consumer's Health Direction, Enduring Power of Attorney form and/or Advance Care Plan Statement of Choices (Competent Person) entering the health record contains quality identifiers (e.g., person identification, signing and witnessing requirements)?

Yes

No

14. Is there a process in place to check the consumer's My Health Record for advance care planning information?

Yes

No

15. Are there processes in place to ensure the consumer's Health Direction, Advance Care Plan Statement of Choices (Competent Person) or any other advance care planning document is:

- the most up-to-date documentation of the person's values and preferences?
- available in the health record?
- readily accessible to clinicians involved in providing care to the consumers?
- accessible in all areas where care is provided, including emergency situations?

16. Are there staff who have had advance care planning training available to discuss the consumer's values and preferences upon admission and/or during their time in your organisation?

- Yes
- No

17. Is there a process in place to ensure that a consumer's values and preferences are reviewed at regular times during their care?

- Yes
- No

18. If **YES**, how frequently does this occur?

19. Do consumers have access to information and resources about advance care planning?

- Yes
- No

20. Do the consumers' families, carers and attorney/ health attorney have access to information and resources about advance care planning?

- Yes
- No

21. Do the information and resources available:

- acknowledge cultural diversity in advance care planning?
- acknowledge LGBTIQ+ needs in advance care planning?
- acknowledge disability needs in advance care planning?
- reflect the current advance care planning legislation (i.e., Medical Treatment (Health Directions) Act 2006 (ACT) and Powers of Attorney Act 2006 (ACT)?
- exist in a variety of formats to meet different consumers' needs (e.g., different media, low literacy 'Easy Read' versions, multiple languages)?
- the organisation does not have information or resources

22. Please list the information and resources currently available:

23. Is there a process in place to ensure that the consumer's attorney/health attorney meets with the responsible clinical team to discuss the person's values and preferences and their future role in decision-making?

- Yes
- No

24. During clinical handover, are there processes in place to ensure that the consumer's goals and preferences are made known to inform care decisions?

- Yes
- No

25. If the consumer is transferred to another health service, are there processes in place to ensure any Health Direction (or other advance care planning document) is provided to inform medical treatment decisions at any stage of the transfer?

- Yes
- No

26. Is there a process in place to assess whether a consumer's Health Direction (or any other advance care planning document) was followed (e.g., death audit)?

- Yes
- No

27. If you answered **YES** to the above question, please specify the mechanism:

Workforce capability

28. Are there processes in place to assess staff understanding and confidence in advance care planning?

- Yes
- No

29. Which of the following are promoted and made available to your staff?

- National Advance Care Planning Support Service 1300 208 582
- Advance Care Planning Australia's referral service
- Information resources (Advance care planning in aged care guide, ELDAC resources or similar)

[Advance Care Planning Learning modules](#) or local online training

Face-to-face training

Other _____

None of the above

30. Does your organisation have a trained advance care planning facilitator (e.g., someone who has completed Advance Care Planning Australia's (ACPA) [Train the Trainer](#) course or similar)?

Yes

No

31. Are there processes in place to ensure staff receive continuing professional development in relation to advance care planning?

Yes

No

Risk management

32. Does your organisation have a reportable event system to investigate failures relating to advance care planning?

Yes

No

33. If **YES**, what types of incidents are reported?

Missing, inadequate or illegible Health Direction (or other advance care planning documents)

Communication inadequate or failed between clinicians

Communication inadequate or failed between attorney/health attorney/family/ carer and clinicians

Consumer incorrectly identified

Attorney/ health attorney contact delayed or not attempted

Health Direction (or other advance care planning document) not followed or used (e.g., treatment provided that was refused).

Planned treatment option unavailable

Disputes between clinicians

Disputes between attorney/health attorney/family/carers and clinicians

Advance care planning documents in health records audit tool

Prior to using this audit tool, auditors should be familiar with this manual including Appendix 3 Health Record Audit Guidance. It is important that data and information is collected in a consistent way across aged care and health service organisations to promote benchmarking and comparison.

Date Completed: _____

Audit Completed by: _____

Person-completed documents

Statutory advance care directive for preferences of care (i.e., Health Direction)

1. Is there evidence of an advance care directive for preferences of care (Health Direction) completed by the consumer?

Yes

No

2. If **YES**, what form(s) are used? (Tick all that apply)

Australian Capital Territory's recommended form

Health Direction (ACT)

Recommended forms from other states and territories

Advance Care Directive (NSW)

Advance Care Directive (SA)

Advance Care Directive (Tas)

Advance Care Directive (Vic)

Advance Health Directive (Qld)

Advance Health Directive (WA)

Advance Personal Plan (NT)

3. Is the document dated?

Yes

No

4. What details does the form contain about the consumer? (Tick all that apply)

Full name

Date of birth

Address

5. Is the document signed by the consumer?

Yes

No

6. Is the document signed by an eligible person at the consumer's direction? e.g., if the consumer has a physical disability that means they cannot sign the form

Yes

No

Question not applicable

7. Is the document witnessed by two people?

Yes

No

8. Does the document specify the person's treatment preferences?

Yes

No

9. If **YES**, what treatment preferences are recorded?

Wants all life-prolonging treatment

Only wants some life-prolonging treatment

Does not want life-prolonging treatment

Person wants to delegate decisions to another person (e.g., attorney/health attorney)

Unable to determine

Other (please specify) _____

Non-statutory / common law advance care directive indicating preferences for care

10. Is there any evidence of other types of person-completed documents which include preferences for care? (Tick any that apply)

Advance Care Plan Statement of Choices - Competent Person

Statement of Choices

Respecting Patient Choices Advance Care Plan

My Values completed by the person

ACP letter indicating treatment preferences

Other (please specify) _____

11. Is the document dated?

Yes

No

12. What details does the form contain about the consumer? (Tick all that apply)

Full name

Date of birth

Address

13. Is the document signed by the consumer?

Yes

No

14. Is the document witnessed?

Yes

No

15. If there was evidence of other types of person-completed documents, did this document express a preference for refusal of treatment?

Yes

No

Statutory advance care directive - appointment of a substitute decision-maker (i.e., Enduring Power of Attorney)

16. Is there evidence of a statutory appointment of an attorney completed by the consumer using a government recommended form (i.e., Enduring Power of Attorney)?

Yes

No

17. If **YES**, what form(s) are used? (Tick any that apply)

Australian Capital Territory statutory form

Enduring Power of Attorney (ACT)

Statutory document from another state/territory:

Advance Care Directive (SA)

Advance Health Directive / Enduring Power of Attorney (Qld)

Advance Personal Plan (NT)

- Appointment of Enduring Guardian (NSW)
- Appointment of a medical treatment decision maker (VIC)
- Enduring Power of Guardianship (WA)
- Instrument Appointing Enduring Guardian(s) (Tas)

Other (please specify) _____

18. Is the document dated?

- Yes
- No

19. What details does the form contain about the consumer? (Tick all that apply)

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Address

20. What details of each attorney does the form contain? (Tick all that apply)

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Address
- Phone number

21. Is the document signed by the consumer?

- Yes
- No

The following question applies if the document is NOT signed by the consumer.

22. Is the document signed by an eligible person at the consumer's direction? e.g., if the consumer has a physical disability that means they cannot sign the form

- Yes
- No
- Question not applicable

23. Has the appointed person signed to indicate their acceptance of the attorney appointment?

- Yes
- No

24. Is the document witnessed by two people?

Yes

No

25. Is at least one of the witnesses a person authorised by law to take a statutory declaration?

Yes

No

26. Have there been any directions, limitations or conditions put on the attorney?

Yes

No

27. If **YES**, do these directions, limitations or conditions conflict with preferences contained in the consumer's Health Direction?

Yes

No

The person does not have preferences documented in a Health Direction

Documents completed by someone else

28. Is there evidence of an advance care plan for someone without sufficient decision-making capacity completed by someone else, e.g., family, carer, attorney/ health attorney?

Yes

No

29. If **YES**, what form(s) are used? (Tick all that apply)

Advance care plan applicable to ACT completed on behalf of someone with insufficient capacity

Advance Care Plan Statement of Choices (No Legal Capacity)

Advance care plan for a person with insufficient decision-making capacity (ACPA)

Other (please specify) _____

Advance care plans from another state/territory:

Statement of Choices, Advance Care Planning Form B (Qld)

What I understand to be the person's preferences and values form (VIC)

Statement of Choices, no capacity (VIC)

Refusal of Treatment Certificate, incompetent person (VIC, prior to March 2018)

Other (please specify) _____

30. Is the document dated?

Yes

No

31. Is the form completed and signed by the person's attorney/health attorney?

Yes

No

Other types of advance care planning documents completed by health professionals

32. Are there any other documents present that indicate the consumer's values and preferences, completed by someone other than the consumer?

Yes

Goals of care plan

Comprehensive care plan

Medical order or resuscitation plan

ACP letter by a health professional

ACP discussion record

Terminal Care Wishes

Other (please specify) _____

No

Advance care planning consumer experience survey

This survey should be completed by a consumer (a person currently admitted or receiving services from a health service or aged care), and the questions are framed this way. If the consumer is unable to complete the survey on their own, someone else such as their attorney/health attorney (e.g., a carer) or health professional, can support them to complete it. The questions should be answered from the consumer's perspective.

Note: Advance care planning allows you to plan for your future medical treatment decisions, for a time when you might not be able to make your own decisions. The process involves conversations about your values and treatment preferences, considering what is acceptable or unacceptable outcomes to you. It may result in you completing a Health Direction and/or Advance care plan Statement of Choice document about your values and preferences for treatment and/or appointing an enduring power of attorney to make decisions for you.

Date: _____

1. Are you the consumer?

- Yes
- No

If **NO**, what is your relationship with the consumer?

2. Had you heard of advance care planning prior to completing this survey today?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

3. Were you asked whether you had a Health Direction (or any other advance care planning document) when you were admitted into the health service or care facility?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

4. If you had some type of advance care planning document when entering the health service or care facility, were you asked if you want or need to update the document?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- N/A - Did not have a Health Direction

5. If you did not have some type of advance care planning document, were you encouraged to document your preferences in a Health Direction and/or Advance care plan Statement of Choices document?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- N/A - Already had a Health Direction

6. If **YES**, did the health service or care facility give you the required form?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- N/A - Question does not apply

7. Were you asked to identify your substitute decision-maker for medical decisions (e.g., attorney/health attorney) during your stay?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

8. Were you encouraged to appoint an attorney in an Enduring Power of Attorney form?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- N/A - Have already appointed an attorney, or do not need to
- N/A - An attorney cannot be appointed as the person has lost decision-making capacity

9. If **YES**, did the health service or care facility give you the required form?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- N/A - Question does not apply

10. Have you had an advance care planning conversation during your stay?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

11. Were you given a resource about advance care planning?

- Yes

Please specify if known _____

- No
- Unsure

12. If **YES**, was the resource easy to understand?

- Yes
- Somewhat (please provide further detail)

- No (please provide further detail)

13. Do you have any suggestions about how to improve your access to, or understanding of, advance care planning?

Appendix 2: Reporting tools

The findings of the audits and survey should be made available to the relevant organisational governance committee and team. Organisations may already have reporting templates for use.

The following templates are provided as examples of how the data and information could be reported to support the identification of advance care planning improvement priorities. MS Word versions of the templates are available via request to Advance Care Planning Australia and can be adapted for local use.

This section includes resources to assist with strategies and activities to support advance care planning quality improvement.

Advance care planning organisational systems report

Introduction

The Advance Care Planning Improvement Toolkit, a nationally endorsed quality improvement resource, was implemented in [MONTH YEAR] to assess advance care planning organisational systems.

Advance care planning organisational systems are believed to promote better consumer choice and control over future medical treatment decisions. This is an important aspect of quality care and recognised within national quality standards.

Findings

The following information demonstrates the advance care planning organisational system results.

Leadership and governance	Yes	No
Governance committee		
Advance Care Planning Champion / Clinical Lead		
Consumer engagement		

Score ___ /3

Policies	Yes	No
Easily accessible		
Policy in compliance with most recent advance care planning legislation		
Policy in date		
Satisfies the policy content checklist		
Processes in place to communicate changes in policy to the workforce		

Score ___ /5

Person-centred care	Yes	No
Correct Health Direction and Advance care plan Statement of Choices form		
Correct Enduring Power of Attorney form		
Systems to identify advance care planning documents on admission		
System to ensure documents contain quality identifiers		
Systems are in place to ensure that advance care planning documents are stored, available in health record and readily accessible at the point of care and any place where care is provided		
Trained staff to discuss consumer's values and preferences		

Systems in place to facilitate review of values and preferences		
Consumers have access to information and resources about advance care planning		
Consumer families, carers and attorney/ health attorney have access to information and resources about advance care planning		
Resources are culturally sensitive, reflect current legislation and are in a variety of forms		
Process enabling an attorney to meet with the responsible clinical team		
Clinical handover processes that ensure goals and preferences are made known		
Process in place to assess whether a Health Direction was followed		

Score ___ /13

Workforce capability	Yes	No
Assessment of staff confidence in advance care planning		
Promotion of National Advance Care Planning Support Service, information resources, learning modules and face to face training		
Train the Trainer		
Continuing professional development		

Score ___ /4

Risk management

There **[is or is not]** a reportable event system available.

The following reportable items are missing from the current reportable event system **[insert here, if applicable]**

Recommendations

The following advance care planning improvements and actions are recommended / proposed:

1. [Define improvement required; action(s) to be taken; timeframe; department or person responsible]
2. [Define improvement required; action(s) to be taken; timeframe; department or person responsible]
3. [Define improvement required; action(s) to be taken; timeframe; department or person responsible]

Advance care planning documents in health records report

Introduction

The Advance Care Planning Improvement Toolkit, a nationally endorsed quality improvement resource, was implemented in [MONTH YEAR] to assess the prevalence and quality of advance care planning documents in health records. This is an important aspect of quality care and recognised within national quality standards.

Advance care planning is a process of planning for future health and personal care, whereby the person's values and preferences are made known. Although conversations themselves are useful, ideally advance care planning results in the voluntary completion of an advance care directive to enable consumer choice and control over future medical treatment decisions.

Preferably, consumers should complete a Health Direction and/or Advance care plan Statement of Choice document when they have capacity to do so. These documents are an important part of advance care planning because they provide information and support for attorney/ health attorney, clinicians and caregivers who may need to consider and advocate for the person's expressed preferences at a time when the person is unable to make or communicate their decisions.

An advance care plan may also be completed on behalf of the person by someone else close to the person, such as a family member, carer, or attorney/health attorney, when a person lacks decision-making capacity to make a Health Direction. An advance care plan may inform care but is not a legally binding document.

Other documentation that can inform future medical treatment decisions, is completed by medical practitioners, and includes do not resuscitate orders or goals of care documents.

This audit examined the prevalence and quality of the different types of advance care planning documents.

Findings

A total of [X] health records were audited at [organisation and site name]. The audit identified an overall prevalence of [XX%] for statutory advance care directives, documents completed by the person. This included a prevalence of [XX%] for an advance care directive – preferences for care (i.e., Health Direction) and [XX%] an advance care directive – appointment of a substitute decision-maker (i.e., Enduring Power of Attorney). Of these documents, [XX%] included all quality identifiers such as full names, date of birth, address, signing by the person, document date, and witnessing. The prevalence of non-statutory / common law documents completed by the person that indicated preferences for care was [XX%], [XX%] of these types of documents refused treatment.

The prevalence of documents completed by someone else was [XX%] for an advance care plan completed by someone else such as a family member, carer, or attorney/health attorney and [XX%] for planning documents completed by a health professional.

Overall, [XX%] had some type of planning document available in the health record to support future medical treatment decision-making.

In comparison, only an estimated 15% of Australians have documented their preferences for care in an Advance Care Directive. The national research project *Prevalence of Advance Care Planning Documentation in Australian Health and Residential Aged Care Services* also found only 14% of older Australians 65+ years had an advance care directive for preferences of care and/or to appoint a

substitute decision-maker. The prevalence across sectors was 11% in hospitals and 38% in residential aged care. For older Australians in residential aged care, 30% of documents were advance care plans completed by someone else (e.g., a family member, carer, or substitute decision-maker), the rate was preferably lower in hospitals at 3%. There was a 10% prevalence of planning documentation completed by a health professional. Overall, only 29% of older Australians had documentation to inform future medical treatment decisions and end-of-life care. Notably, the prevalence reported from this study was ultimately low and the organisation should aim to record a greater prevalence.

Recommendations

The following advance care planning improvements and actions are recommended / proposed:

1. [Define improvement required; action(s) to be taken; timeframe; department or person responsible]
2. [Define improvement required; action(s) to be taken; timeframe; department or person responsible]
3. [Define improvement required; action(s) to be taken; timeframe; department or person responsible]

Advance care planning consumer experience survey report

Introduction

The Advance Care Planning Improvement Toolkit, a nationally endorsed quality improvement resource, was implemented in [MONTH YEAR] to assess consumer advance care planning experience. This is an important aspect of quality care and recognised within national quality standards.

Findings

A total of [X] advance care planning consumer experience surveys were completed and [X] were completed by the consumer themselves and [X] were completed with support. [XX%] report that they had not heard of advance care planning prior to this survey.

Table 1. Consumer experience with advance care planning processes

	Number of responses (%)			
	Yes	No	Unsure	N/A
Asked about Health Direction and/or Advance Care Plan Statement of Choices on admission				
Asked to update document if needed				
Encouraged to complete Health Direction and/or Advance Care Plan Statement of Choices document				
Given the required form(s)				
Encouraged to appoint an attorney				
Given the required Enduring Power of Attorney form				
Advance care planning conversation				
Given an ACP resource				
The resource was easy to understand				

Consumers provided the following suggestions for improvement:

- [insert verbatim comment or describe themes]
- [insert verbatim comment or describe themes]

Recommendations

The following advance care planning improvements and actions are recommended / proposed:

1. [Define improvement required; action(s) to be taken; timeframe; department or person responsible]
2. [Define improvement required; action(s) to be taken; timeframe; department or person responsible]
3. [Define improvement required; action(s) to be taken; timeframe; department or person responsible]

Appendix 3: Health record audit guidance

The advance care planning health record audit requires the auditor(s) to have robust knowledge of advance care planning and the types of advance care planning documents and formalities requirements. This could be achieved by completing the ACPA Learning modules 1 to 4, being familiar with this ACPI Toolkit manual including this Appendix and testing the audit toolkits prior to rollout.

The audit examines the prevalence, type of, quality and availability at the point of care of advance care planning documents at your organisation. An overview of the types of advance care planning documents can be found in the flowchart (Figure 3) on the next page.

This guidance is intended to assist you to complete the audit and understand the types of advance care planning documents.

Figure 3 Documentation flowchart – Australian Capital Territory

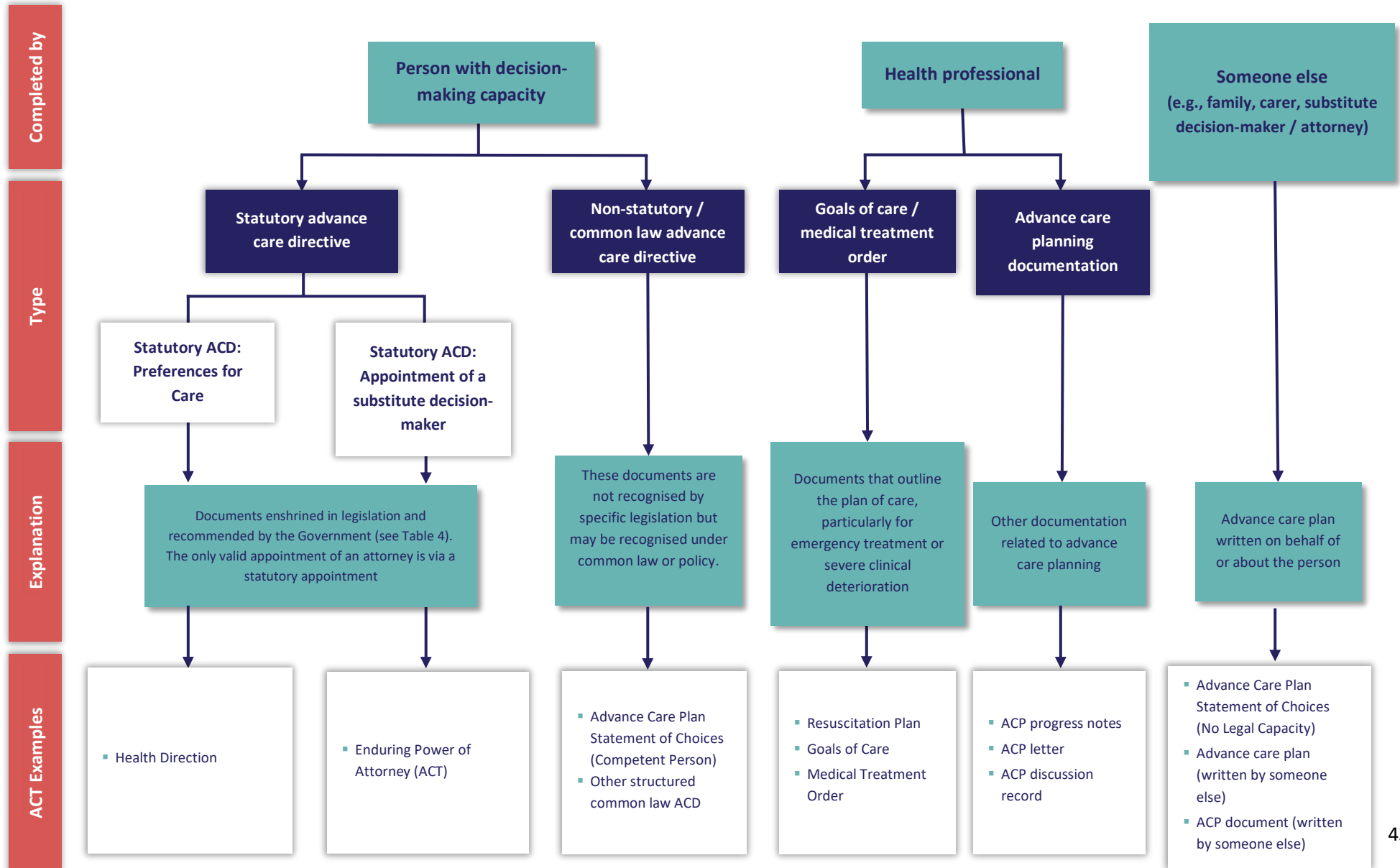


Table 4. Government Recommended advance care directives used in Australia

Jurisdiction	Advance care directive: preferences for care	Statutory advance care directive: appointment of a substitute decision-maker
Australian Capital Territory	Health Direction	Enduring Power of Attorney (Healthcare Matters)
New South Wales	Advance Care Directive (common law advance care directive)	Appointment of Enduring Guardian
Northern Territory	Advance Personal Plan Direction under Natural Death Act (<i>prior to 1 July 2014</i>)	Advance Personal Plan – Substitute Decision-Maker Appointment Enduring Power of Attorney (<i>prior to 17 March 2014</i>)
Queensland	Advance Health Directive	Enduring Power of Attorney Advance Health Directive
South Australia	Advance Care Directive Anticipatory Direction (<i>prior to 1 July 2014</i>)	Advance Care Directive - Substitute Decision-Maker Appointment Medical Power of Attorney (<i>prior to 1 July 2014</i>) Enduring Power of Guardianship (<i>prior to 1 July 2014</i>)
Tasmania	Advance Care Directive	Enduring Guardianship
Victoria	Advance care directive for adults made under the <i>Medical Treatment Planning and Decisions Act 2016</i> (Part 2 and/or Part 3) (<i>from 12 March 2018</i>) Refusal of Treatment Certificate (Competent) (<i>prior to 12 March 2018</i>) <i>See note *</i>	Appointment of Medical Treatment Decision Maker (<i>from 12 March 2018</i>) Enduring Power of Attorney (Medical Treatment) (<i>prior to 12 March 2018</i>) Enduring Power of Guardianship (<i>prior to 12 March 2018</i>) Enduring Power of Attorney (Personal Matters) (<i>prior to 12 March 2018</i>)
Western Australia	Advance Health Directive	Enduring Power of Guardianship

Note: * Under previous Victorian legislation (*Medical Treatment Act 1988*), the Refusal of Treatment Certificate (Non-competent) was also an authorised statutory advance care directive. However, there is no provision in the current Victorian legislation for statutory advance care directives written on behalf of non-competent people. Therefore, for the purposes of this audit, the Refusal of Treatment Certificate (Non-competent) is considered advance care planning documentation completed by someone else.

Documentation completed by the person – Health Direction

Under the current Australian Capital Territory legislation, an adult can make a Health Direction to refuse, or require the withdrawal of, medical treatment generally or a particular kind of medical treatment. In Australian Capital Territory, a Health Direction can be made in writing, orally or in any other ways.

Statutory advance care directive – preferences for care (i.e., Health Direction)

The Australian Capital Territory has a prescribed form for written health directions, see Figure 3.

Figure 3 Australian Capital Territory Medical Treatment Health Direction form

1

HEALTH DIRECTION
Medical Treatment (Health Directions) Act 2006

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

- *If this direction is inconsistent with an enduring power of attorney for a health care matter or a medical research matter that you have previously given, your attorney must comply with this direction.*
- *If this direction is inconsistent with an enduring power of attorney for health care matters or medical research matters that you make in the future, your attorney must comply with your enduring power of attorney.*
- *You can revoke this direction by clearly expressing to a health professional or someone else a decision to revoke the direction, or by making another direction.*
- *Subject to the above, the power to make decisions relating to the withholding or withdrawal of medical treatment to you, including treatment involving medical research, will now be exercised according to your instructions on this form.*

1. DIRECTION

I,

Person making the direction	<i>[name]</i>
	<i>[address]</i>

make this direction to refuse, or require the withdrawal of, medical treatment generally or a particular kind of medical treatment:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Quality identifiers

Written Health Directions

To be a valid Health Direction, several formality requirements set out in the *Medical Treatment (Health Directions) Act 2006* (ACT) need to be complied with. The questions in this audit help you identify whether these formality requirements are met.

- The Health Direction must be signed by the person completing the Health Direction or by someone else in the presence of and at the direction of the person making the direction; and
- The signature must be witnessed by two other people; and

- Each witness must sign the Health Direction in the presence of the other person and the person making the direction; and
- The prescribed form must be used (See Figure 3)

Non-written Health Directions

- The non-written Health Direction must be witnessed by two health professionals at the same time, one of whom must be a doctor.

Statutory advance care directive – appointment of a substitute decision-maker (Enduring Power of Attorney)

In the Australian Capital Territory, a person can appoint a substitute decision-maker, known as an attorney, to make healthcare decisions on the person's behalf when a person no longer has decision-making capacity under an Enduring Power of Attorney.

Formality requirements

The Enduring Power of Attorney form must:

- be signed by the person appointing the attorney or by someone else in the presence of and at the direction of the person making the appointment; and
- be signed and dated by two adult witnesses in the presence of each other and the person making the appointment (see witness eligibility requirements below); and
- must contain a certificate signed by each witness stating that the person making the appointment did so voluntarily in the presence of the witness, and the person appeared to understand the nature and effect of making the appointment; and
- indicate acceptance by the attorney of their appointment

What are the witnessing requirements?

- A witness CANNOT be the person signing the Enduring Power of Attorney for the person making an appointment at their direction; a person being appointed as an attorney under the legislation; or a child.
- Only one of the witnesses can be a relative to the person making an appointment or a person being appointed.
- One witness must be a **person authorised to witness the signing of a statutory declaration** (see Figure 5).

Figure 5 People authorised to sign a statutory declaration¹

A STATUTORY DECLARATION			
may be made before any of the persons listed here as per the <i>Statutory Declarations Act 1959</i> ;			
- Chiropractor	- Person before whom a statutory declaration may be made under the law of the State or Territory in which the declaration is made.	- Notary public	- Legal practitioner
- Medical practitioner		- Police officer	- Optometrist
- Patent attorney		- Teacher employed on a full-time basis at a school or tertiary education institution	- Physiotherapist
- Psychologist			- Veterinary surgeon
- Postal Manager	- Member of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy	- Employee of the Commonwealth authorised under paragraph 3 (c) of the <i>Consular Fees Act 1955</i> who is exercising his or her function outside Australia	- Magistrate
- Australian Consular Officer or Australian Diplomatic Officer (within the meaning of the <i>Consular Fees Act 1955</i>)	- Permanent employee of (a) the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth authority; or (b) a State or Territory or a State or Territory authority; or (c) a local government authority; with at least 5 years continuous service	- Member of the Parliament of the Commonwealth, a State, a Territory legislature, or a local government authority or a State or Territory	- Bank, building society or credit union officer with 5 or more continuous years of service
- Chief executive officer of a Commonwealth court			- Fellow of the National Tax Accountants' Association
- Commissioner for Declarations			- Holder of a statutory office
- Commissioner for Affidavits			- Marriage celebrant
- Member of Chartered Secretaries Australia	- Dentist	- Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants or the National Institute of Accountants	- Member of Engineers Australia, other than at the grade of student
- Sheriff's officer	- Nurse		- Sheriff
- Registrar, or Deputy Registrar of a court	- Pharmacist	- Member of the Australian Defence Force who is (a) an officer; (b) a non-commissioned officer within the meaning of the <i>Defence Force Discipline Act 1982</i> with at least 5 years continuous service; (c) a warrant officer within the meaning of that Act	- Minister of religion registered under the <i>Marriage Act 1961</i>
- Member of the Association of Taxation and Management Accountants	- Trade marks attorney		- Senior Executive Service employee of the Commonwealth a Commonwealth authority, a State or Territory, or a State or Territory authority
- Employee of the Australian Trade Commission authorised under paragraph 3 (d) of the <i>Consular Fees Act 1955</i> who is exercising his or her function outside Australia	- Bailiff		- Permanent employee of the Australian Postal Corporation with 5 or more years of continuous service who is employed in an office supplying postal services to the public
	- Finance company officer with 5 or more years of continuous service		
	- Clerk of a court		
	- Judge of a court		
	- Justice of the Peace		
	- Master of a court		

When no attorney is appointed

In the absence of an attorney appointed by the person or a guardian appointed by the tribunal, the health attorney will be responsible for making decisions on behalf of the person.

The priority order for an eligible health attorney (i.e., an adult with decision-making capacity) is as follows:

- (a) domestic partner
- (b) non-paid carer for the person
- (c) close relative or close friend

Non-statutory / common law advance care directive indicating preferences for care

There are other documents that can indicate a person's values and preferences. These documents may include an Advance Care Plan Statement of Choices completed by the person, Statement of Choices document completed on behalf of a person lacking capacity, My Values report, or a letter indicating the person's values and preferences. The Australian Capital Territory produces an "Advance Care Plan Statement of Choices (Competent Person)" as supporting documentation to provide additional information about the person's specific wishes regarding their future healthcare decisions (see Figure 6).

When these documents include the person's preferences and values, they should be taken into account by a health practitioner, substitute decision-maker and/or the Public Advocate.

Figure 6 Advance Care Plan Statement of Choices (Competent Person)



ACT Health

Advance Care Plan Statement of Choices - Competent Person

Affix patient label or complete details

Name: _____

Address: _____

DOB: _____ Telephone: _____

URN: _____ (Hospital use only)

Name of Attorney(s) under Enduring Power of Attorney

1. Name: _____

2. Name: _____

Telephone number(s) of Attorney:

Telephone number(s) of Attorney:

_____ (Home)

_____ (Home)

_____ (Mobile)

_____ (Mobile)

_____ (Work)

_____ (Work)

Relationship: _____

Relationship: _____

3. Name: _____

4. Name: _____

Telephone number(s) of Attorney:

Telephone number(s) of Attorney:

_____ (Home)

_____ (Home)

_____ (Mobile)

_____ (Mobile)

_____ (Work)

_____ (Work)

Relationship: _____

Relationship: _____

Date of the Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA): _____

The following documents have been completed and are attached:

Enduring Power of Attorney: Yes No

Health Direction under the Medical Treatment (Health Directions) Act 2006: Yes No

Registered on the Donate Life register: Yes No

For more information about organ and tissue donation contact Donate Life on 6244 5625

I give permission for this information to be shared with my health care team.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Copies of your Advance Care Plan have been given to: e.g. Canberra and Calvary Public Hospital; GP; Attorney(s) or Guardian; Residential Aged Care Facility; private hospital/health facility *(complete as many lines as applicable)*

1. _____

4. _____

2. _____

5. _____

3. _____

6. _____

Advance Care Plan Statement of Choices - Competent Person

Documentation completed by someone else

Although the statutory Health Direction, appointing an attorney via the Enduring Power of Attorney, and/or Advance Care Plan Statement of Choices (Competent Person) are preferable, it is recognised that other types of advance care planning documents may be available that are indicative of the consumer’s values and preferences. These documents may be useful to health practitioners and substitute decision-makers when making medical treatment decisions on behalf of the person. These documents will be produced on behalf of a person who does not have sufficient decision-making capacity and may include the person’s substitute decision-maker, carer and/or other loved ones and referred to as an advance care plan.

Figure 7 demonstrates the Advance Care Plan Statement of Choices (No Legal Capacity), the recommended advance care plan form in ACT. Figure 8 is an example of an advance care plan that may be used by any state or territory.

Figure 7 Advance Care Plan Statement of Choices (No Legal Capacity)

ACT Health

ADVANCE CARE PLAN STATEMENT OF CHOICES - NO LEGAL CAPACITY

Affix patient label or complete details

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Phone: _____

DOB: _____ Sex: _____

URN: _____ (Hospital use only)

Attorney under Enduring Power of Attorney/Guardian *(please circle to identify which role)*

<p>1. Name: _____</p> <p>Telephone number(s) of Attorney:</p> <p>_____ (Home)</p> <p>_____ (Mobile)</p> <p>_____ (Work)</p> <p>Relationship: _____</p>	<p>2. Name: _____</p> <p>Telephone number(s) of Attorney:</p> <p>_____ (Home)</p> <p>_____ (Mobile)</p> <p>_____ (Work)</p> <p>Relationship: _____</p>
<p>3. Name: _____</p> <p>Telephone number(s) of Attorney:</p> <p>_____ (Home)</p> <p>_____ (Mobile)</p> <p>_____ (Work)</p> <p>Relationship: _____</p>	<p>4. Name: _____</p> <p>Telephone number(s) of Attorney:</p> <p>_____ (Home)</p> <p>_____ (Mobile)</p> <p>_____ (Work)</p> <p>Relationship: _____</p>

Date of the Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA): _____

The following documents have been completed and are attached:

Enduring Power of Attorney or Guardianship Orders (as applicable): Yes No

Health Direction under Medical Treatment (Health Directions) Act 2006: Yes No

Registered on the Australian Organ Donor Register Yes No

For more information about organ and tissue donation contact Donate Life on 6174 5625

I give permission for this information to be shared with the health care team.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Copies of your Advance Care Plan have been given to: e.g. Canberra and Calvary Public Hospital; GP; Attorney(s) or Guardian; Residential Aged Care Facility; private hospital/health facility *(complete as many lines as applicable)*

1. _____	4. _____
2. _____	5. _____
3. _____	6. _____


DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BINDING MARGIN

(8150)10c

ADVANCE CARE PLAN STATEMENT OF CHOICES - NO LEGAL CAPACITY

1.531

Figure 8: Advance care plan for a person with insufficient decision-making capacity



If you are a health service or aged care organisation, add your logo within this space.

(For person health record purposes, attach a label here)

UR Number:

Surname:

Given name(s):

Date of birth:
(dd/mm/yyyy)

FORM

Advance care plan for a person with insufficient decision-making capacity

This is an advance care plan for a person with insufficient decision-making capacity to complete an advance care directive¹. This is **not** a form that is able to give legally-binding consent to, or refusal of treatment. This plan can be used to guide substitute decision-makers and clinicians when making medical treatment decisions on behalf of the person, if the person does not have an advance care directive.

Question 1

The person with insufficient decision-making capacity that this document applies to

Full name:

Date of birth:
(dd/mm/yyyy)

Address:

Question 2

The person completing this document

Full name:

Relationship to the person:

Address:

Phone number:

I believe that I am this person's legally recognised substitute decision-maker:

Yes
 No
 Unknown

If yes and appointed, please attach documentation that provides evidence of this (see Table 2 of the Instruction Guide).

If no, the person's legally recognised substitute decision-maker should complete and sign the form.

If a person is transitioning care between states and territories, they may have an advance care plan from another jurisdiction.

Documentation completed by health professionals

These documents are completed on behalf of the consumer by a health professional, usually the consumer's treating medical practitioner.

Examples of these documents include:

- Goals of care document
- Medical order that describes the resuscitation and/or need for transfer
- An advance care planning discussion record
- An advance care planning letter by a health professional
- Notes related to advance care planning (e.g., progress notes).

Appendix 4: Policy checklist

Policy checklist	Item content	Yes / No
Administrative details	Date came into effect/ approved	
	Date of last review	
	Date of next review	
Introduction	Clear statement of intent about the purpose of the policy	
	Objectives of the policy	
	Desired outcomes of the policy	
	Indication of the staff the policy applies to	
Advance care planning content	Clear explanation of advance care planning as a voluntary process	
	Identification of current relevant law and policy	
	Clear explanation of when and how an advance care planning document is created, stored, accessed, and activated	
	Clear explanation of the ACP document formalities	
	Roles in the advance care planning process (including the consumer, attorney, health attorney, the consumer's loved ones, and treating/care team.	
	Clinical handover / transfer processes (internal and external)	
	Storage of advance care planning documents (including the role of My Health Record)	
Definitions	Advance care planning	
	Health Direction	
	Advance care plan Statement of Choices	
	Consent	
	Decision-making capacity	
	Enduring Power of Attorney	
	Attorney/health attorney	
	Impaired decision-making capacity	
	Substituted judgement, if relevant	
Culturally sensitive / underserved populations	Reference to engaging with consumers from diverse backgrounds including culturally and linguistically diverse populations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations	
	Reference to engaging with consumers who are LGBTIQ+ or people with disability	