



SUBSTITUTE DECISION-MAKERS



Estate Planning
that connects
your head and
your heart.

Your Substitute Decision-Maker will make decisions for you, subject to any relevant wishes or instructions you have written in your Advance Care Directive, when you are unable to make your own decisions.

Your Advance Care Directive

In South Australia, The Advance Care directive replaces the existing Medical Power of Attorney, Anticipatory Direction and Enduring Power of Guardianship.

An Advance Care Directive is a legal document which allows you to:

- write down your wishes, preferences and instructions for future health care, end of life, living arrangements and personal matters and/or
- appoint one or more Substitute Decision-Makers to make these decisions on your behalf when you are not able to do so yourself.

Role & Responsibilities of your Substitute Decision-Maker

The role of a Substitute Decision-Maker may be temporary or permanent and come into effect due to any of the following:

- a sudden accident or serious mental health episode
- lack of capacity due to dementia or similar condition
- a sudden serious stroke
- you are unconscious or in a coma

Your nominated Substitute Decision-Makers will be sent paperwork to sign and return to us.



Is my Advance Care Directive the same as a Will?

An Advance Care Directive is NOT a will.

It cannot be used to make financial or legal decisions.

You should also make an **Enduring Power of Attorney** to take care of your future finances and legal matters.

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT POWERS OF ATTORNEY](#)

What decisions CAN'T my Substitute Decision-Makers make on my behalf?

- anything illegal (such as requesting voluntary euthanasia)
- refuse food and water to be given to you by mouth
- refuse medicine for pain or distress (for example palliative care)
- make legal or financial decisions

Anyone making decisions on your behalf will need to make choices they think you would have made in the same circumstances, so it goes without saying, your Substitute Decision-Maker should be someone you feel close to or who knows you and your wishes extremely well.

ESTATE *YOUR* LAWYER

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