

### **What is an Advance Care Directive?**

An Advance Care Directive is a legal form that allows peoples over the age of 18 to:

1. Write down their wishes, preferences and instructions for future health care, end of life, living arrangements and personal matters and/or
2. Appoint one or more Substitute Decision-Makers to make these decisions on their behalf when they are to do so themselves.

It cannot be used to make financial decisions.

The new Advance Care Directive Form replaces the existing Medical Power of Attorney, Anticipatory Direction and Enduring Power of Guardianship with a single Advance Care Directive Form (however any of these existing forms will continue to have effect post 1 July 2014).

### **Do I need an Advance Care Directive?**

It will give you peace of mind to know that those caring for you will know what you want if you are unable to make your own decisions.

They can communicate and advocate for your wishes and your values.

They will be able to make decisions about life support, medical treatments you will receive, where you will live and other general medical decisions.

### **When will it be used?**

The document can be used for several reasons, including:

1. An accidental or mental health episode;
2. Dementia or similar condition;
3. A sudden stroke; or
4. Because you are unconscious or in a coma

These events can happen at any time in your life. If they did, then this document allows you to appoint someone to make important medical decisions for you.

For more information, contact:

### **Kelly Kelly Legal**

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