Advance Care Directives Redesign of Form and Guide

What has changed?

This fact sheet provides a high-level summary of the differences between the current Advance Care Directive (ACD) Form and DIY Kit and the redesigned ACD Form and Guide.

Some of these changes have been made to respond to the recommendations made by Professor Wendy Lacey, who undertook a review of the *Advance Care Directives Act 2013*, in 2019. Other changes have been made to respond to feedback received from the public, key stakeholders and from the health sector.

Changes made to the form

General

- The form and DIY kit have been separated. There is now one form and one guide.
- The form has a cover page and a back cover.
- The overall flow of form has been simplified, i.e., no blue column on the left-hand side. Instead, the guiding text has been moved under the heading of each Part and also refers to the guide for more information.
- The form has been expanded from 6 pages to 10 pages to accommodate recommendations made in the Lacey Review.
- Language of 'he/she' has been replaced with 'they/them' throughout.

Part 1

- **Part 1 (page 1)** details what an ACD is and asks for personal details only. This is so the persons details are up front and clear when presented in a clinical setting.
- Personal details now prompt gender information.

Part 2

- **Part 2a (page 2)** has been changed to list Substitute Decision Makers (SDMs) only, and they are now required to sign the form in Part 7. This is to ensure that SDMs read the ACD before they sign it, rather than signing up front.
- There may be an appendix to appoint additional SDMs if there are more than four (**please note:** it has not yet been decided if these will be included on the redesigned form or if they will be made available for download via the website instead).
- **Part 2b (page 3)** has been changed to include a first point of contact. This person is your first preferred SDM to be contacted in an emergency.
- **Part 2c (page 3)** has been amended to make it clearer that you can appoint your SDMs in an order of preference and to specify conditions on your SDMs to carry out certain instructions as detailed in their ACD.

Part 3

Part 3 (pages 4-5) the content in this section has not changed.

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Part 4

- **Part 4 (page 6)** now has binding refusals section on its own full page.
- '(Health care I do not want)' has been added to the heading to make it clearer for consumers about what 'binding refusals' means in plain English.

Part 5

Part 5 (page 7) is a new section regarding organ donation.

Part 6

Part 6 (page 7) is now the interpreter section. It now specifies the following:

- Digital signature of an interpreter can be used on the online form only
- Extra statement regarding requirements under the Act have been included.

Part 7

- **Part 7 (page 8)** is now the section where SDMs sign and accept their role. Digital signatures of SDMs are now permitted in this section of the online form only.
- There may be an appendix for SDMs to sign if more than four are appointed (**please note:** it has not yet been decided if these will be included on the redesigned form or if they will be made available for download via the website instead).

Part 8

- **Part 8 (page 9)** has a section dedicated to the declaration of the person signing their ACD. Previously, this section was included under the witnessing section which caused confusion.
- The online version of the form will state that a digital signature is not permitted in this section of the form.

Part 9

Part 9 (page 9) witness statement section now includes:

- Tick boxes to allow the witness to specify if the ACD maker personally signed their ACD, made a 'mark' in their presence, or had someone else sign it on that person's behalf.
- The execution statement has been removed as this caused confusion for witnesses.
- Prompts for the authorised witness to specify which category they fall under in section 15(1)(a) of the Act.

Addendums

- Blank pages may be added for additional information if the person completing the ACD requires more space to specify their wishes (**please note:** it has not yet been decided if additional pages will be included on the redesigned form or if they will be made available for download via the website instead).
- Part 2a continued – there is an extra page for appointing more than four SDMs (**please note:** it has not yet been decided if these will be included on the redesigned form or if they will be made available for download via the website instead).
- Part 7 continued – there may be an extra page for SDMs to sign and accept their role if there are more than four (**please note:** it has not yet been decided if these will be included on the redesigned form or if they will be made available for download via the website instead).
- Information about what to do with your completed ACD is now at the end of the form along with a section to cut out a wallet card.

Changes made to the guide (currently known as DIY kit)

- The flow of information has been improved. The new guide page numbers are listed from page 1 to 48.
- No more tear out pages.
- The guide has step-by-step instructions on how to complete each section of the form.
- The guide combines the information statement, SDM guidelines, information for witnesses and interpreters towards the end of the guide.
- Suggested statements under relevant sections have been updated and/or expanded.
- People's 'story' examples have been placed under the section of the guide they are relevant to.
- Contact information has been updated to include details of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).
- Pages or information that have been removed or repurposed include the following:
    - Frequently asked questions can be accessed via the website and/or brochure (to be decided).
    - Example of a completed Form will now be accessible via the ACD website.
    - Cancellation of an ACD form will be placed as a separate form on the ACD website.
    - Feedback can be submitted on an online form via the ACD website.
    - Notes pages have been removed.

For more information

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