

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING – POLICY STATEMENT

Christian Brethren Community Services (CBCS) is a not-for-profit organisation specialising in the provision of quality care and accommodation for the aged, including the provision of comprehensive palliative care services. We believe that all people are created in the image of God, who is the creator and sustainer of life.

It is the view of CBCS that we are to follow the example of Jesus Christ in showing love and compassion to all people, including those who are approaching end of life. Our vision “*Christ’s love compels us*” is based upon this precept. We value all residents no matter their physical or mental state.

CBCS is of the view that “assisted dying” is inconsistent with our belief that God alone is the creator and sustainer of life.

Accordingly, as provided in the Act *, CBCS adopts a policy of conscientiously objecting to the provisions of Voluntary Assisted Dying and chooses to take no part as an organisation in the facilitation of or assistance in this process to the full extent available within the provision of the law. Further, as also provided in The Act, none of our staff will participate in any “voluntary assisted dying” activities. Where a permanent resident makes a request regarding “voluntary assisted dying” services, we will listen compassionately, advise of the range of services that we have available and, should they wish to enquire further, we will refer them to an authorised medical practitioner.

CBCS has as its primary focus the care and wellbeing of our residents. For residents approaching end of life, we undertake this with purposeful intent to deliver compassionate, holistic and comprehensive care including the provision of palliative care services. We will provide this care throughout the end-of-life process but will not participate in any activities intended to end someone’s life.

30 September 2023

* Voluntary Assisted Dying Act, 2022 (NSW)