

Medical Enduring Power of Attorney

What is a medical enduring power of attorney?

- It is a legal document.
- You appoint another person with the power to make decisions for you about your medical treatment.
- This is only activated when you can't make the decisions yourself. For example, when you are seriously unwell.

Why do you need one?

- It gives you control of your healthcare.
- Life is unpredictable.

Next steps



1. Decide who

- Someone over the age of 18.
- Someone you trust.
- Someone who understands and will carry out your wishes.



2. Complete the form

- You need to fill in the form. Ask your social worker for one.
- Two witnesses are needed to sign the form.
- One witness needs to have the authority to sign; eg. a police officer or a pharmacist.



3. Sharing

- Make copies.
- Give a copy to:
 - the person you have appointed
 - your doctor; eg. GP
 - St Vincent's Hospital.
- Keep the original.
- Keep it in an easy place to find. For example, on the fridge.

What if you change your mind?

- You can cancel it at any time.
- You will need to complete a different form to cancel. Ask your social worker about this.
- You will need to tell:
 - the person you appointed
 - your doctor
 - St Vincent's Hospital.

For more information

- Speak to your social worker.
- Visit the Office of the Public Advocate website: www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au/power-of-attorney/medical-enduring-power-of-attorney

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