



The following are legal matters you may wish to consider and discuss with your family/friends.

### **Advance care planning**

It is important to discuss your values, beliefs and preferences for medical treatment with your family, friends and healthcare team. This process is called ***advance care planning***.

Advance care planning helps to ensure that your loved ones and your doctors know what your current and future, health and personal preferences are, and that these are understood and respected.

As part of advance care planning, you can choose someone to make medical treatment decisions on your behalf, if you become unable to make decisions about your own healthcare. This person is called a ***substitute decision-maker***.

In Victoria, the substitute decision-maker, appointed by you, is called a ***medical treatment decision-maker***.

In Victoria, if you do not appoint someone yourself, and the time comes that you are not able to, there is a formal process on who will be asked to make decisions for you.

Your substitute decision-maker is the first of the following who is available, willing and able to make decisions:

1. Medical treatment decision-maker(s) appointed by you
2. Guardian appointed by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) to make decisions on your medical treatment
3. A person with a close and continuing relationship with you (medical treatment decision-maker), chosen in the following order:
  - a. Your spouse or domestic partner
  - b. Your primary carer
  - c. Your adult child (eldest to youngest)
  - d. Your parent (eldest to youngest)
  - e. Your adult sibling (eldest to youngest).