Advance Care Planning is a process to help people understand and plan both medical care and lifestyle choices in advance. If they become too unwell to make decisions for themselves, their wishes can still be respected by the healthcare team, family and carers.

Advanced Care Planning is about having the conversation with the client and their family around what choices they would like if they could not speak for themselves.

Who should have an Advance Care Plan?
Anyone over 18 years of age can make an Advance Care Plan but especially people who:
- have a chronic or life limiting health condition
- are entering a residential care facility
- believe their family may have different views or beliefs of their own
- have a condition that may lead to loss of capacity to make decisions, (e.g., Dementia)

In WA the components of an Advance Care Plan are:
- **Enduring Power of Guardianship** - to appoint a substitute decision maker
- **Advance Health Directive** - to legally record a person’s wishes regarding future medical treatments
- **Advance Care Plan** - to document a person’s advanced care planning discussion and inform their substitute decision maker and doctor, to assist them in making decisions for the person
- **Enduring Power of Attorney** - to appoint a decision maker to make financial and/or property decisions
- **Wills** - document how your assets will be distributed and how the individual/organisation responsible will carry out these wishes after death

An **Advance Care Plan** (ACP) allows for future planning of health and personal care and includes a person’s wishes that are not necessarily health related. This document is used to guide health professionals and families about a person’s care, along with any other special requests and wishes. An ACP is a non-statutory document which can be considered under common law.

**Where can I find an Advance Care Plan form and more information?**

This document can be accessed through the WA Department of Health.

Online:  
www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Advance-care-planning

Phone:  
(08) 9222 2300

Email:  
acp@health.wa.gov.au

An **Advance Health Directive** (AHD) allows people to make decisions about the treatment they would, or would not want to receive if they ever became sick or injured and were unable to communicate their wishes. At these times, an AHD would effectively become the person’s voice.

This document includes medical, surgical and dental treatments, including palliative care and life-sustaining measures.

An AHD is the most important legal document that comes into effect if a person is unable to make reasoned judgements or communicate during the time that treatment is required.

**Where can I find an Advance Health Directive form and more information?**

This document can be accessed through the WA Department of Health.

Online:  
www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Advance-care-planning

Phone:  
(08) 9222 2300

Email:  
acp@health.wa.gov.au

An **Enduring Power of Guardianship** (EPG) is a document that enables a person to appoint an individual of their choice, to make important personal, lifestyle and treatment decisions on their behalf should they ever become incapable of making such decisions themselves.

This legal document appoints an Enduring Guardian who could be authorised to make decisions about things such as where the person will live, the support services the person will have access to and provide or refuse consent to medical treatment. An Enduring Guardian cannot be authorised to make property or financial decisions on the person’s behalf.

The person(s), appointed as Enduring Guardian(s) must be 18 years of age or older and have full legal capacity.

**Where can I find an Enduring Power of Guardianship form and more information?**

This document can be accessed through The Office of the Public Advocate.

Online:  

Phone:  
(08) 9278 7300

Email:  
opa@justice.wa.gov.au