

Substitute Decision-Maker Toolkit Project

The Office of the Public Advocate & Office for Ageing Well

Background

Office for Ageing Well, SA Health (OAW) and the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) are working together to develop and deliver the 'Substitute Decision-Maker Toolkit Project'.

Arising from surveys conducted as part of the 2019 review of *The Advance Care Directive Act* (2013), it became apparent there was a need for increased access to education and information about Advance Care Directives (ACD) including the role of Substitute Decision-Makers (SDM). This need had also been identified through the work of the OPA and OAW.

Purpose

The purpose of the SDM Toolkit Project is to provide consistent and accessible information to current and potential SDMs who are appointed under an ACD, to increase their understanding and knowledge about their important role. The project aims to support SDMs to feel more informed and confident in their important role.

Through further education, it is envisaged that those appointing an SDM can also be reassured their wishes and views will be upheld and rights safeguarded.

Key information will include: understanding an individual's decision-making capacity, rights-based decision-making principles, supported and substitute decision-making and the supports available to assist with the resolution of potential issues or conflicts.

Toolkit Development

Information will be made available via an accessible and enduring toolkit, containing various resources. The toolkit's design and development will be informed by focus groups with stakeholders that will include individuals with lived experience of developing an ACD and/or being an SDM.

The project will promote the toolkit and resources throughout South Australia, including through education workshops.

STAGE ONE

July 2021 to
April 2022

- Project set up and stakeholder focus groups to inform toolkit development

STAGE TWO

May 2022 to
September 2022

- Toolkit and resource content development and production

STAGE THREE

October 2022 to
June 2023

- Promotion and education of toolkit and resources throughout South Australia

For more information or enquire about attending a focus group, please contact:

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