Handout for workshop: Code of Ethics: Ministry to people on a VAD pathway Material developed by Sue Crittall j.s.crittall@bigpond.com

## Activity 1: Power, pastoral relationship

## Paired activity

- What would you say to explain 'power'?
- What power do you think you have as a Minister?
- Reflect on cultural background and the power of a Minister
- What is the pastoral relationship?
- Thinking about your placement who are you in pastoral relationship with?

## Activity 2: Thinking about pastoral conversations

# Small group/paired activity

- How does a Minister appropriately bring their theological, biblical, spiritual pastoral experience into a pastoral conversation?
- In what ways should a Minister seek to influence an outcome of a pastoral conversation?
- How do you hold your convictions in a pastoral conversation?

# Activity 3: Case study: choose which case study to explore

## Small group activity

Case study 1: You are a Minister in a congregational placement. Rachael, a member of the congregation has contacted you and asked if you could make a pastoral visit. You know this person well and are aware that they have had a long journey with cancer. You arrive at the home and are greeted by Rachael and her husband Paul. Rachael shares with you that she has told Paul that she has been considering VAD and that Paul has told her that VAD is a sin. Rachael says they need your help. "Is it a sin" asks Rachael?

Case study 2: You are a Minister in a chaplaincy placement. A person has requested that the chaplain visit. You have never met this person before and knock on the door and introduce yourself. The person invites you in and identifies that their name is Michael. Michael is clearly distressed. He tells you says that he has just been given the news that he has terminal cancer. "I watched my father suffer with cancer" says Michael. "I know there is an option now of VAD. Can you help me understand it and talk with me about how I might go about deciding to go for it?".

# Case study discussion questions

- What power is the Minister given in this situation?
- What responses could the Minister make in this situation?
- What could go wrong?
- What guidance does the COE offer to this situation?
- How would you proceed?

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Activity 4: Reflect on being careful about influencing others

Small group/paired activity

- What challenges do you face in ensuring you do not influence the decision making of another?
- Reflect on offering appropriate compassion and support to people on a VAD pathway and words spoken, body posture, gestures, eye contact, facial expressions, tone of voice
- How have your previous ministry experiences prepared you for exercising ministry with people on a VAD pathway?

# Activity 5: Consider the following pastoral conversation scenarios

Small group activity

What would an inappropriate/appropriate use of power response be?

- "If I choose VAD will I go to hell?"
- "If you were me what would you decide re VAD?"
- "I have chosen VAD. Do you think that is a good decision?"
- "Can you explain VAD to me?"
- "What does the Bible say about VAD?"
- "Will you do my funeral if I choose VAD?"
- "What do you think I should say to my family about VAD?"
- "Do you know anyone who has chosen VAD?"

## Activity 6: Self reflection

- What have you realised about the Code of Ethics and ministry to people on a VAD pathway
- What will be a challenge for you? Where do you need to be careful?
- What do you need to consider further?