



2024

# ANNUAL REPORT

Voluntary Assisted Dying  
Australia and New Zealand  
for the period 18 August 2023  
to 30 June 2024

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[vadanx.com.au](http://vadanx.com.au)





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VADANZ acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Traditional Owners, Custodians and First Nations of Australia and Māori as tangata whenua and Treaty of Waitangi partners in Aotearoa New Zealand.



VADANZ is an ACNC registered charity, all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

# President's Report

VADANZ has undergone a period of impressive evolution over the past 18 months. We've formally relaunched the organisation, successfully applied for charity and deductible gift recipient (DGR) status, and appointed new members to the Board.

The VADANZ Board met for a strategy and planning weekend in September and I couldn't be more confident in the next phase of the organisation's growth. The new board members have brought some additional skills and expertise to steer VADANZ in the right direction and add to the wealth of knowledge that we retain through our initial directors Professor Michael Dooley and Susan Jury to deliver our strategic goals.

Our next focus is on the second annual trans-Tasman VAD Conference (VADCON24) in Brisbane on 28 & 29 October. We're planning focused discussions on issues such as prognostic timeframes, conscientious objection, assessing capacity and supporting VAD clinicians. For the first time, there will be a dedicated research theme, curated and chaired by the leading VAD researchers from across Australia and New Zealand.

VADANZ's inaugural Annual General Meeting on 27 October will be the star studded opening to VADCON24 and it will be exhilarating to see a room full of members who passionately believe in our organisation and VAD.

Throughout this period of growth, we remain focused on addressing our members' priorities that were made clear at our first trans-Tasman VAD Conference; including the risk involved in conducting VAD processes through carrier services, and ensuring sustainability of the VAD workforce (including recruitment, training, and remuneration models).

As the organisation is now well set up for success, I recently announced I would be stepping away to focus on my young family and busy clinical practice.

I am grateful to all of the Directors past and present who bravely followed me into this adventure and I know I am leaving VADANZ in excellent hands. I would also like to specifically acknowledge and thank the Go Gentle Australia team, whose support has been immense and who have taken the spark I had and added the kindling and the breath needed to start this fire.

Finally, to our members, thank you for your ongoing support, I feel so proud to have played a part in establishing a group of such dedicated people with a wealth of experience, knowledge and care.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cam McLaren'.

Dr Cam McLaren  
President  
VADANZ

# Vision & Strategy

The first VADANZ strategy session was held with the initial directors in June 2023. The organisation's Vision, Purpose and Strategic Pillars were agreed and communicated to members.

The VADANZ Strategy was reviewed and updated in September 2024 with the expanded director team. The updated 'strategy on a page' is below.



## Vision

**A network of healthcare professionals who are supported to provide excellence in voluntary assisted dying care.**

## Purpose

**As the peak body for healthcare professionals, we lead, strengthen and sustain our workforce to deliver high quality care.**

## Strategic Pillars

### Advance high quality VAD

#### Immediate

- Quality Care Statement
- Identify gaps
- Publish Practice Standards

#### Longer term

- Education development
- Build VAD evidence base to inform practice

### Support VAD workforce

- Foster & develop community between both current & potential members
- Fair remuneration
- Addressing barriers to practice (i.e. telehealth, gag clause)
- Obtain better data about needs of members (both the individual and the collective)

### Strengthen organisation

- Grow membership
- Secure funding and resources
- Manage Compliance & Risk (Governance)

### Provide leadership and expertise

- Reputation & Recognition
- Relationships with key stakeholders
- Clarify organisational position statements

# Board

## Initial Directors



### Dr Cameron McLaren

Cam is a medical oncologist from southeast Melbourne and is the founder of VADANZ. He has shared his experiences to inform the development and implementation of VAD legislation across Australia and New Zealand, and has appeared internationally to speak on the issue.



### Susan Jury

Susan is an NZ, HK and US registered nurse with a Master of Public Health degree. With a colleague she founded the first VAD navigator service in Australia, in Victoria 2019 and continues as director of the service. Susan has held a diverse range of roles and has extensive experience in establishing new clinical programs.



### Professor Michael Dooley

Michael holds a joint appointment as Director of Pharmacy at Alfred Health and Professor of Clinical Pharmacy, Centre for Medicine Use and Safety, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences of Monash University. His career has focused in the acute healthcare sector and has spanned special clinical roles in oncology through to senior leadership positions within health services.

## Retired Initial Directors



### Dr Rohan Vora

Resigned 11 January 2024

Rohan is a retired palliative medicine specialist based in south-east Queensland and northern NSW. During his training, his mentors taught him to believe strongly in delivering evidence-based and compassionate care. Once VAD became legal in Qld, he completed his VAD training to be able to deliver all end-of-life options chosen by his patients.



### Dr Gareth Wahl

Resigned 25 June 2024

Gareth is the Director of Clinical Services at the Women and Newborn Health Service in Perth, WA. Prior to this he was the Medical Lead for Voluntary Assisted Dying at North Metropolitan Health Service. Gareth has been involved in the assessment and provision of end-of-life care for patients in homes, hospitals, and residential care facilities across rural and metropolitan WA since July 2021.



### Dr Gavin Pattullo

Resigned 25 June 2024

Gavin is an authorised NSW VAD practitioner and a practicing Consultant Anaesthetist and Pain Medicine Physician on the Lower North Shore of Sydney. Gavin brings his own experience of the need for VAD for a loved one. For him it is a great privilege to support those who due to circumstances outside of their control will knowingly, thoughtfully, and lovingly make decisions about how to end their life.

# Incoming Directors



## Dr Laura Chapman

Appointed 1 August 2024

Laura is a General Medicine SMO and the Director of Clinical Training at Waitemata. Laura enjoys strategic leadership and contributing to all aspects of medical education.



## Dr Sally Cockburn

Appointed 2 July 2024

Dr Sally Cockburn is a part time practising specialist GP and adjunct senior lecturer at Monash University. She also holds a Masters degree in Health and Medical Law. Along with extensive board experience Sally served as an inaugural member of the Victorian VAD Review Board and is a registered VAD practitioner in that state. She is also well known for her long time media career and advocacy work.



## Dr Clare Fellingham

Appointed 1 August 2024

Clare led the implementation of VAD across the East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS), chairs the EMHS Clinical Ethics Committee, and has been a VAD practitioner since the day the law was enacted in WA. Clare is passionate about how communication, informed consent, treatment futility, religious pluralism, and the doctor-patient relationship interplay in the ethical delivery of healthcare.



## Dr Chloe Furst

Appointed 1 August 2024

Chloe is a dual-trained geriatrician and palliative care physician working across both specialties in the Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN). She is the Co-Head of unit for the Royal Adelaide Hospital Department of Geriatric and Rehabilitation Medicine and the state division president of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Geriatric Medicine (ANZSGM) as well as member of ANZSGM's council.



## Dr Keith MacArthur

Appointed 1 August 2024

Dr Keith MacArthur has over 35 years' experience as a medical practitioner, with more than 30 of those as a GP in a range of environments. Keith is the Tasmania Health Service Clinical Lead for Voluntary Assisted Dying.



## Ray Plibersek

Appointed 1 August 2024

Ray is an experienced Solicitor who has worked closely with medical professionals and within Government. He has held countless Governance roles and brings with him a breadth of leadership experience.

# Members

VADANZ membership criteria was developed by the initial directors and grouped in 3 main categories.

## Practising

Health professionals working in voluntary assisted dying, who:

- hold registration with AHPRA, the relevant New Zealand professional board or council, or hold some other qualification accepted by the VADANZ Board; and
- have experience delivering voluntary assisted dying services in Australia or New Zealand; or
- hold other VAD experience felt relevant by the VADANZ Board.

## Retired

Health professionals with prior involvement in voluntary assisted dying care, who are:

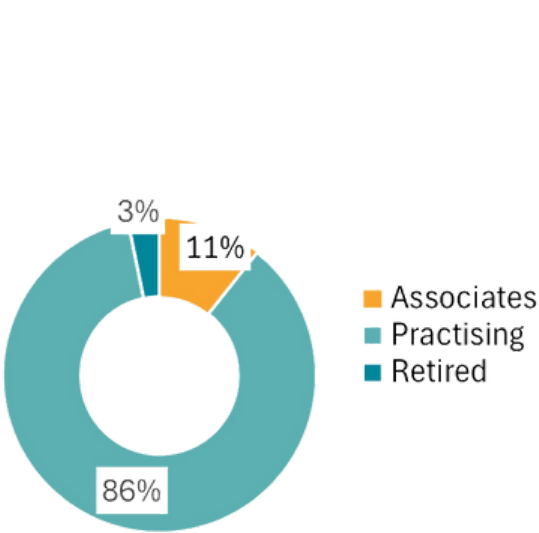
- an experienced VAD practitioner who is no longer involved in VAD care; or
- a VADANZ member for 2+ years and retiring from clinical or professional practice; or
- hold other VAD experience felt relevant by the VADANZ Board.

## Associate

This category is for non-clinical professionals who contribute to voluntary assisted dying services (e.g. operational and administrative roles). As an associate, you must:

- Demonstrate a commitment to deliver or support VAD services in Australia and/or New Zealand; and
- Hold a professional qualification or other experience that satisfies the VADANZ Board.

As at 30 June 2024 there were 187 members. A breakdown of types of members and where our members are from are below.



	Practising	Retired	Associate	Total members
ACT	2	-	1	3
NSW	38	1	5	44
NT	-	-	-	-
NZ	28	1	6	35
QLD	18	1	3	22
SA	17	-	-	17
TAS	5	-	1	6
VIC	41	2	3	46
WA	13	1	-	14

# Our Achievements

## Operations

- MOU developed between VADANZ and Go Gentle Australia to formalise support agreement. GGA has supported the initial development of VADANZ as an organisation as well as providing day to day operational support.
- VADANZ successfully registered as an independent company, requiring development of constitution, position description of directors and governance requirements.
- Initial Board directors and Steering Committee assembled to guide organisational development.
- Key operational processes built e.g. financial systems, core operational policies, board agenda/meetings/minutes.
- VADANZ achieved ACNC registration – a milestone vital for access to Govt grants & fundraising.
- First chair appointed and initial director group expanded.

## Voluntary Assisted Dying Conference

- Inaugural VAD Conference was held in September 2023 – co-hosted by GGA & VADANZ. Conference was an enormous success with 51 high profile speakers and around 300 attendees (in person & online).
- VADANZ was officially launched.

## Brand & Website

- VADANZ brand designed, agreed & launched at VADCON23.
- Website updated with new look and content.

## Media & Communications

- Increasing media interest in VADANZ – media enquiries directed to VADANZ board & relevant members for comment.
- Regular VADANZ newsletters produced to deliver greater member value and updates on developments across Australia & New Zealand.

## Webinars

- Regular webinar program launched with all members having access to attend live, and/or access recordings in the members area of the website. Webinars were well attended with very positive feedback.

## Submissions

- VADANZ submissions made to relevant enquiries and reviews.



# **FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia and  
New Zealand Limited (VADANZ)  
ABN: 24 670 623 195**

**Financial Statements  
for the period 18 August 2023  
to 30 June 2024**

**Directors' report for the period 18 August 2023 to 30 June 2024**

The Directors present their report, together with the financial statements of VADANZ ('the Organisation') for the period from 18 August 2023 to 30 June 2024.

**Directors**

The following persons were Directors of the Organisation during the period from incorporation up to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated:

Dr Cameron McLaren (President)  
Dr Rohan Vora (President-Elect) (resigned 12 January 2024)  
Dr Gareth Wahl (Secretary) (resigned 25 June 2024)  
Professor Michael Dooley  
Susan Jury  
Dr Gavin Pattullo (resigned 25 June 2024)

**Principal activities**

The principal activities of the Organisation during the financial year were to relieve the distress and suffering experienced by people with untreatable or terminal illnesses, and their families and carers, by ensuring they have access to the highest quality VAD advice and care. VADANZ has been formed by a group of healthcare professionals who deliver VAD advice and care and who have worked together over recent years in communities of practice to share their experience and expertise.

**Significant changes**

No significant changes in the nature of the activities occurred during the reporting period.

**Operating results**

The surplus of the Organisation for the financial period amounted to \$50,227 (No prior comparatives).

**Events after the reporting period**

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2024 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the organisation's operations, the results of those operations, or the organisation's state of affairs in future financial years.

On behalf of the officers



Dr Cameron McLaren  
President



Mr Raymond Plibersek  
Chair

**Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia and New Zealand Limited (VADANZ)**  
**ABN: 24 670 623 195**

**Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024**

**Assets**

<b>Bank</b>	
Stripe AUD	1,741
Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia and New Zealand	48,536
<b>Total Bank</b>	<u>50,277</u>

**Total Assets** 50,277

**Net Assets** 50,277

**Equity**

Current Year Earnings 50,277

**Total Equity** 50,277

**Profit and Loss for the period ended  
June 2024**

**Trading Income**

Gifts/Donations	11,354
Interest Income	1,132
Membership - Associates	2,100
Membership - Other	4,510
Membership - Practising	31,550
Membership - Retired	<u>200</u>

**Total Trading Income** 50,846

**Gross Profit** 50,846

**Operating Expenses**

Bank Fees – Stripe	569
Total Operating Expenses	<u>569</u>

**Net Profit** 50,277

**Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia and New Zealand Limited (VADANZ)**  
**ABN: 24 670 623 195**

**Notes to the financial statements for the period 18 August 2023 to 30  
June 2024**

**Note 1. General information**

The financial statements cover VADANZ (the Organisation) as an individual entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Organisation's functional and presentation currency.

The Organisation is an Australian Public Company domiciled in Australia and registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. Its registered office and principal place of business is 3 Confait Ct, Berwick, VIC 3806.

A description of the nature of the Organisation's operations and its principal activities are included in the Directors' report, which is not part of the financial statements.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 25 October 2024.

**Note 2. Significant accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

New or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted

The Organisation has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

Basis of preparation

In the Directors' opinion, the Organisation is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements.

These are special purpose financial statements that have been prepared for the purposes of complying with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The Directors have determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the members of the Organisation.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements specified by the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements', AASB 107 'Statement of Cash Flows', AASB 108 'Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors', AASB 1048 'Interpretation of Standards' and AASB 1054 'Australian Additional Disclosures', as appropriate for not-for-profit oriented entities.

Historical cost convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Association's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in note 3.

**Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia and New Zealand Limited (VADANZ)**  
**ABN: 24 670 623 195**

**Notes to the financial statements for the period 18 August 2023 to 30 June 2024 (continued)**

**Note 2. Significant Accounting Policies (Cont'd)**

Comparative figures

No comparative figures are provided as 2024 is the first year of trading.

Revenue recognition

Revenue from contracts with customers

The core principle of AASB 15 is that revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of promised services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the Association expects to receive in exchange for those services.

Generally, the timing of the payment for rendering of services corresponds closely to the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations, however where there is a difference, it will result in the recognition of a receivable, contract asset or contract liability.

None of the revenue streams of the Organisation have any significant financing terms as there is less than 12 months between receipt of funds and satisfaction of performance obligations.

Specific revenue streams

The revenue recognition policies for the principal revenue streams of the Association are:

**Memberships**

The revenue is recognised when membership is accepted and paid.

**Donations and other revenue**

Revenue is recognised on receipt of cash or at the time a receivable is recorded, if earlier.

Income tax

As the Organisation is a tax-exempt charity in terms of subsection 50-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, as amended, it is exempt from paying income tax.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Goods and Services Tax ('GST') and other similar taxes

The organisation is not registered for GST.

**Note 3. Contingent liabilities**

The organisation had no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2024.

**Note 4. Commitments**

The organisation had no commitments as at 30 June 2024.

**Note 5. Events after the reporting period**

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2024 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the organisation's operations, the results of those operations, or the organisation's state of affairs in future financial years.

# Donors & Support

## Thank you for your time & generosity

Despite the ever-increasing demands of modern practice, VADANZ members have generously volunteered their time and expertise to support the organisation.

## Steering Committee

August 2023 - June 2024

We would like to give special thanks to the individuals who assisted to develop VADANZ in the lead up to incorporation and up until 30 June 2024. Their knowledge and experience assisted the Directors to help shape VADANZ to where it is today.

Dr Peter Allcroft  
Dr Laura Chapman  
Dr Bu O'Brien  
Dr Kerr Wright

## Secretariat

VADANZ requires significant secretariat support to ensure the smooth running of the organisation and deliver relevant services. We are indebted to the Go Gentle Australia team for their invaluable support including the management of all back-office operations, provision of media and communications expertise and CEO guidance.

## Donations

We would like to thank Dr Nick Carr for his generous donation during the year.

