



# Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia and New Zealand Limited

# ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended 30 June 2025

[vadanz.org.au](http://vadanz.org.au)

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VADANZ is committed to fostering an inclusive and respectful community for all who deliver or are supported by voluntary assisted dying services across Australia and New Zealand.

We acknowledge and celebrate the diversity of our members, colleagues, and the communities we serve — including First Nations peoples, LGBTQIA+ communities, people with disability, and those from culturally, linguistically, and spiritually diverse backgrounds.

We recognise that each person's experience of dying, death, and bereavement is shaped by their identity, culture, and circumstances. Guided by our values of compassion, respect, and equity, we seek to promote culturally safe, inclusive, and person-centred care for everyone at the end of life.

Within our organisation and the broader VAD sector, VADANZ strives to model cultural humility, foster psychological safety, and uphold the right of every person to be treated with dignity, autonomy, and acceptance.



VADANZ is an ACNC registered charity, all donations over \$2 are tax deductible. To donate please go to [vadanz.org.au](https://vadanz.org.au)

# President's Report

Working alongside my dedicated board colleagues, I'm proud we've made meaningful strides in strengthening VADANZ as the peak body for VAD professionals.

Over the past year, we've launched a comprehensive remuneration survey, established a student membership program, and delivered a successful webinar series that has enabled peer-to-peer support and learning.

We've contributed to key submissions, to the Victorian VAD law amendments and NT parliamentary inquiry in VAD which is important in driving legislative change. Kudos, too, to our board members who found time to contribute to the UK VAD law debate, and the Tasmanian parliamentary debate on setting up a VAD portal.

We've also been proud to represent VADANZ at multiple industry conferences and events, and commenced work on clinical guidelines—which we hope will be of assistance to our colleagues, especially those considering being practitioners.

I'm incredibly proud of what we've accomplished together and excited to see the organisation continue to thrive under the leadership of President-Elect Dr Andrea Bendrups, who will officially step into the role at our AGM on 30 October.

The past 12 months have flown by, and it's been an honour to serve in this role.



*Sally*

Dr Sally Cockburn  
President  
2024 - 2025

# President-Elect's Report

It is with great honour and deep responsibility that I step into the role of President of VADANZ. I do so with immense respect for those who have led before me, and with a clear-eyed commitment to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. In the coming year, our focus will be on strengthening the foundations of compassionate, evidence-based VAD care by driving forward the reforms our sector so urgently needs.

Key priorities for the year ahead include continued advocacy for legislative reform to better align the different jurisdictions in which we work, and lobbying governments to help improve the availability of VAD services for patients who live outside metropolitan areas.

We will also focus on workforce sustainability. We understand that providing VAD services has a significant impact on clinicians' time and emotional reserves so are working on a practical clinical worksheet to help practitioners streamline performing and submitting patients' assessments. Workforce sustainability also ensures our peak body remains resilient.

Based on the results of our member survey, we are continuing to work on understanding the complexities of remuneration for the delivery of VAD services in different regions. We will also continue our webinar series as we recognise the importance of peer support and clinical guidance.

The best outcomes will be achieved by building deeper connections between clinicians and policymakers across jurisdictions and to achieve this we plan to bring you a bigger, better VADCON in 2026. Please consider joining us to add your perspective.

I am energised by the passion and expertise within our community. Together, we have the capacity to shape and strengthen VAD care in Australia and New Zealand. I look forward to working alongside each of you in the next 12 months.



*Andrea*

Dr Andrea Bendrups  
President-Elect

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

### Strengthen organisation

- Grow membership
- Securing funding and resources
- Manage compliance and risk (governance)

### Provide leadership and expertise

- Reputation and recognition
- Relationships with key stakeholders
- Clarify organisational position statements

# Directors

The VADANZ Board is made up of dedicated health professionals and sector leaders who generously volunteer their time to guide and strengthen our organisation.

Together, they bring deep experience from medicine, nursing, pharmacy, law, and research and a shared commitment to ensuring that voluntary assisted dying is delivered safely, compassionately, and equitably.

The Board provides strategic oversight, clinical insight, and organisational stewardship to advance VADANZ's mission: supporting those who deliver voluntary assisted dying and promoting safe, equitable, and compassionate end-of-life care.

Their combined expertise and dedication continue to shape VADANZ as a trusted voice for practitioners and the communities we serve.



**Dr Andrea Bendrups**

**Member elected 27 October 2024 | President-Elect 2024/25**

Dr Andrea Bendrups has been a consultant Rheumatologist and General Physician at the Royal Melbourne Hospital since 1991 and was also in private medical practice until 2014. Clinical responsibilities involved both inpatient and outpatient practice, including on-call management of acute medical conditions. At the public hospital she was involved in both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching of both general medicine and rheumatology. After ceasing private practice Andrea became the Deputy Director of the Royal Melbourne Hospital Clinical School, a University of Melbourne academic position. One of the inaugural members of the Advance Care Planning Committee at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Andrea currently also works as a Medical Panellist to provide specialist opinion on tribunals convened by the Victorian Workcover Authority.



**Dr Sally Cockburn**

**Member elected 27 October 2024 | President-Elect 2024 & President 2024/25**

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.



**Professor Michael Dooley**

**Member elected 27 October 2024**

Michael is the Director of the Victorian Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy Service and has contributed to the design and implementation of voluntary assisted dying services firstly in Victoria and then across multiple jurisdictions in Australia.



**Dr Clare Fellingham**

**Member elected 27 October 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

**Member elected 27 October 2024**

Dr Chloe Furst is a dual trained geriatrician and palliative care physician. She is the Co-Head of unit for the Royal Adelaide Hospital Department of Geriatric and Rehabilitation Medicine with a special interest in capacity, cognitive impairment, multimorbidity and end of life care and the medico-legal interface and ethics around these complex issues. Chloe was heavily involved in the implementation of SA's Voluntary Assisted Dying Legislation.



### Ms Susan Jury

**Member elected 27 October 2024**

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.



### Mr Raymond Plibersek

**Board 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.

## Retired Directors

During the year we farewelled some of our board members, whose contribution have helped build the foundations of VADANZ. Each has brought unique expertise and a deep commitment to ensuring quality, compassion and integrity in our work. We thank them sincerely for their service and wish them every success in their continuing professional and personal endeavours.



### Dr Cameron McLaren

**Inaugural President 2023/2024 | Retired 27 October 2024**

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.



### Dr Laura Chapman

**Retired 19 February 2025**

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 Keith McArthur

**Retired 25 March 2025**

Dr Keith McArthur 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.

# Members

VADANZ membership criteria was developed by the initial directors and was reviewed during the year, the following group was added under the Associate category:

## Associate - Student

This category is for students with an active enrolment in a tertiary education facility. As an associate - student, you must:

- Demonstrate an interest in the delivery or support VAD services, reform or care improvement in Australia and/or New Zealand; and
- Be currently progressing towards a professional qualification that is relevant to VAD or which would add some other experience regarded as satisfactory by the VADANZ Board.



Associates - students may be invited to attend and speak at a meeting of VADANZ members, but are not entitled to vote. They have access to associate-level resources. This membership lasts for 12 months from sign up date, after which the student will need to reapply.

### Practising

Health professionals working in VAD, who:

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

### Retired

Health professionals with VAD 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 VAD (e.g. operational or 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.



# Membership

as at 30 June 2025



\*Includes Associate - Student



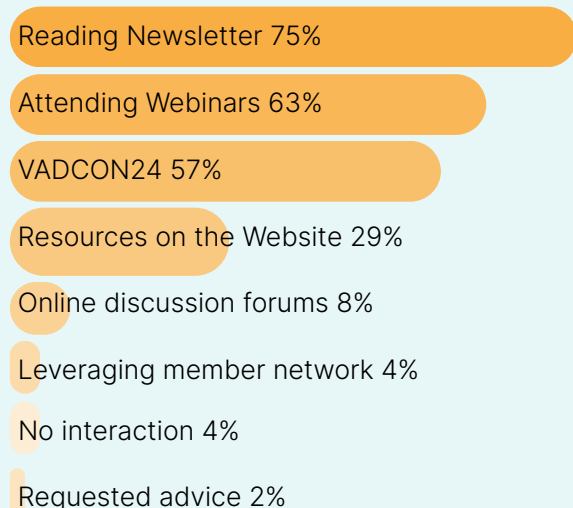
	Practising	% of total	Retired	Associates*
ACT	3	1%	-	1
NSW	46	22%	1	8
NZ	28	13%	-	4
QLD	27	13%	1	6
SA	16	8%	-	3
TAS	11	5%	-	1
VIC	59	28%	3	7
WA	23	11%	1	2

\*Includes Associate - Student

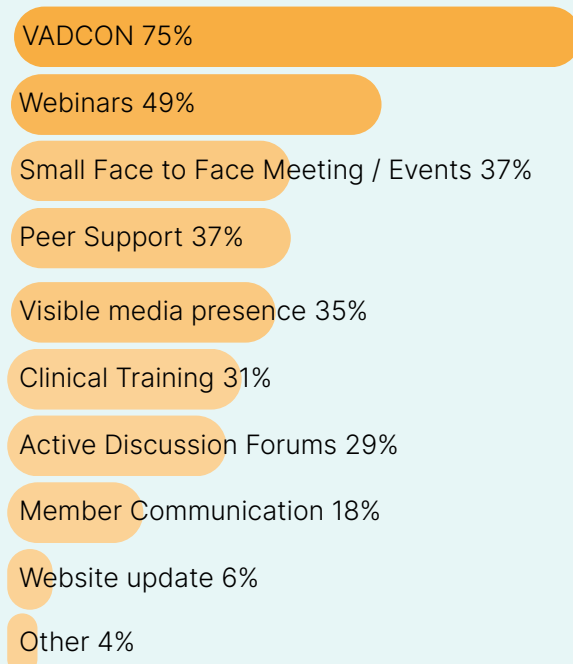
## Annual Member Survey

We asked our members a series of questions about their membership to which 51 responded, approximately 20% of the membership. Of that 88% of respondents were Practising members and the split of responses was largely representative of the membership of each jurisdiction.

### How members have interacted with VADANZ in the last 12 months



### What members want to see more of from VADANZ in the next 12-18 months



How likely members are to recommend VADANZ to a friend or colleague (out of 10)

8.1

# VADCON24

In October 2024, VADANZ hosted the second trans-Tasman Voluntary Assisted Dying Conference, in partnership with Go Gentle Australia and QUT's Australian Centre for Health Law Research.

Starting off with our inaugural AGM and an insightful updates from an expert panel which had representatives across every trans-Tasman jurisdiction that has VAD in place or are implementing VAD, chaired by Professor Ben White.

Over the next 2 days 450 delegates (with 65% describing their work as clinical practice) came together to share insights from six years of VAD clinical experience. The theme for VADCON24 was 'Access and Equity' and we heard from 60 expert speakers ranging from clinicians, researchers and academics and policy professionals.

Delegates told us:

- ◆ *Workload, remuneration and emotional toll are the common reasons people leave the VAD workforce.*
- ◆ *Allowing use of telehealth and electronic communications in VAD practice is their priority for VAD reform.*
- ◆ *Reducing or removing limits on open discussions (including stigma, telehealth and gag clause) would improve the experience for people seeking VAD.*
- ◆ *80% of respondents see themselves working in the VAD field in five years.*

Everyone at VADANZ extends our gratitude to all presenters, delegates and partners who contributed to VADCON24's success and to Go Gentle for the professional handling of conference operations.

We look forward to continuing these important conversations in person at VADCON26 which will be held in Melbourne in October.



Congratulations to Dr Jessica Young who was the recipient of the inaugural **VADANZ Innovation Award for Emerging Research in VAD**



# Other Achievements

## Expert Advice

- Providing a submission to the Northern Territory enquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying
- Consultation with the Victorian government on amendments to Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
- Submission of feedback to NZ review of End of Life Choice Act
- Giving evidence at multiple hearings of UK enquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying Legislation both virtually and in person

## Webinars

- July 2024: The Pharmacology of VAD
- November 2024: Malignant Prognostication and VAD
- February 2025: The VAD Assessment
- April 2025: Attending a VAD Death

## Strategic Advisory Committee

- Established the Strategy Advisory Committee
- Forum for in-dept discussions on key areas for VADANZ
- Meets alternate months to VADANZ Board, has discussions and prepares recommendations to the VADANZ Board for approval and actioning.

## Education & learning

- Identifying gaps in information on VAD across Australia and New Zealand.
- Collating information and education resources for practitioners, patients and carers and publishing in a central area on our website.
- Identifying potential partners in future learning activities.

## Remuneration

- Analysing remuneration structures across jurisdictions to identify differences.
- Remuneration survey sent across Australia with over 100 responses.
- Preparing strategy in relation to Medicare Benefits Scheme.

## Commonwealth Carriage Laws

- Appeal to federal Health Minister and Attorney General for reform on the legal restrictions on the use of carriage services for VAD.
- Contributed to Joint statement: Electronic communications must be available for voluntary assisted dying with 19 other health organisations.

## VADANZ in the community

- Invited speaker at meetings, conferences and seminars throughout the year.
- Information about joining VADANZ available to delegates at relevant conferences and meetings.
- Social media posts and followers have been increasing rapidly.
- Opinion pieces in MJA Insight+ and Medical Observer.

# Financial Report



## Directors' report 30 June 2025

The Directors present their report, together with the financial statements of VADANZ ('the company') for the year ended 30 June 2025.

In the opinion of the Directors:

1. The financial affairs of VADANZ have been conducted in accordance with its governing rules
2. The attached financial statements present fairly the financial position of VADANZ as at 30 June 2025
3. At the date of this declaration & after making adequate enquiries, there are reasonable grounds to believe the entity is solvent and will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

### Directors

The following persons were Directors of the organisation during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated:

- Dr Cameron McLaren (President resigned 27 October 2024)
- Dr Sally Cockburn (President from 27 October 2024)
- Dr Andrea Bendrups (President-Elect from 27 October 2024)
- Dr Clare Fellingham (appointed 1 August 2024)
- Mr Raymond Plibersek (Director from 1 August 2024)
- Ms Susan Jury
- Professor Michael Dooley
- Dr Chloe Furst (appointed 30 July)

### 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 year.

### Operating results

The surplus of the Organisation for the financial year amounted to \$65,464.

On behalf of the officers:



**Dr Sally Cockburn**  
President



**Mr Raymond Plibersek**  
Chair

#### Profit and Loss

For the year ended 30 June 2025

Account	2025	2024
<b>Trading Income</b>		
Gifts / Donations		11,354
Interest Income	4,043	1,132
Membership - Associates	4,050	2,100
Membership - Other	2,340	4,510
Membership - Practising	55,563	31,550
Membership - Retired	600	200
Membership - Students	40	
Sales	250	
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>66,887</b>	<b>50,846</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>66,887</b>	<b>50,846</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Bank Fees - Stripe	1,422	569
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1,422</b>	<b>569</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>65,464</b>	<b>50,277</b>

#### Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2025

Account	30-Jun-25	30 June 2024
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Bank</b>		
Stripe AUD	1,536	1,741
Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia and New Zealand	114,205	48,536
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>115,741</b>	<b>50,277</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>115,741</b>	<b>50,277</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>115,741</b>	<b>50,277</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Earnings	50,277	
Current Year Earnings	65,464	50,277
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>115,741</b>	<b>50,277</b>



## Notes to the financial statements

### 30 June 2025

#### 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 a not-for-profit entity Australian Public Company in New South Wales and domiciled in Australia. It is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and its registered office and principal place of business is:

Suite 2, Level 1  
9-11 Grosvenor Street  
NEUTRAL BAY NSW 2089

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

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 20 October 2025.

#### 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.

##### Basis of preparation

In the Committees' opinion, the organisation is not a reporting entity as 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 Committee has 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.

##### Going Concern

The Committee has determined that the financial statements be prepared on the basis that the entity is a going concern.

##### 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.

##### 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.

##### Contingent Liabilities

Contingent liabilities are liabilities whose amount and timing cannot be sufficiently accurately forecast to be recognised in the balance sheet, or to have the corresponding expenses recognised in the Profit & Loss Statement. The committee is not aware of any pending legal actions or any other unresolved claims against it, its officers, or its assets.

##### Events occurring after balance date

The Directors are not aware of any events that have occurred since the balance date of the Financial report that need to be disclosed in the notes in order to present a full and fair view of its operations during the year and position at the end of the year.

##### Related Party Transactions

During the year there were related party transactions as follows:  
Nil.



# With Thanks

A big thanks to all of our **members** for their continued support, VADANZ wouldn't exist without their membership and also to those who have also generously volunteered their time and expertise.

## Strategic Advisory Committee

December 2024 - June 2025

We would like to give special thanks to the individuals who have been working with VADANZ providing jurisdictional knowledge and expertise.

Dr Keith McArthur  
Dr Sara Townend  
Prof Elizabeth Reymond  
Dr Kerr Wright

## Secretariat & Operational Support

VADANZ requires significant secretariat and operational support to ensure smooth running of the organisation and deliver services to our members. We are incredibly grateful to the Go Gentle Australia team for their invaluable support through the year.

## Presenters & Panel Members

To everyone who has contributed to or presented at our webinars throughout the year, we thank you for your guidance and expertise. VADANZ was built on peer-to-peer support and education and your willingness to share your insights and experiences made it both meaningful and memorable.

## Those who have taken the time to provide their knowledge and experience

To everyone who has taken the time to share their experience and knowledge by completing surveys, questionnaires, answered questions or given us assistance over the year, we thank you. All of your generosity assists us to build our evidence-base and strengthen our organisation.



Contact: [admin@vadan.org.au](mailto:admin@vadan.org.au)  
ABN: 24 670 623 195  
[vadan.org.au](http://vadan.org.au)

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