



VADANZ

Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia and New Zealand

Dear <<First Name>>

Welcome back. It's been a rocky start to 2026 for many of us in the heatwave, fire and flood zones of Australia, and we're saddened to hear the news of landslides in New Zealand. The Board of VADANZ sends its best wishes to all those who have been impacted by these climatic events and offer our support wherever possible. I hope that each jurisdiction's Community of Practice will do the same.

I hope the rest of us are feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead. For VADANZ, 2026 is already off to a strong start. I'm very pleased to share that **Julian Gardner AM**, a distinguished human rights lawyer and former Chair of the Victorian VAD Review Board, has accepted the position of VADANZ Director and Board Chair, succeeding **Ray Plibersek**. On behalf of all members, the Board extends its sincere thanks to Ray for his dedicated service and wishes him every success in his future endeavours.

The issue of VAD practitioner remuneration has also been in the [media spotlight](#) this past week, following the release of our [2025 survey](#) highlighting widespread dissatisfaction. With momentum building, we're preparing a series of stakeholder meetings aimed at driving progress on this critical issue. We'll keep you informed as this work develops.

Hot on the heels of the Victorian Government's recent passing of 13 amendments to their state's VAD law, the NSW, Tasmanian and Queensland governments will be reviewing their VAD laws in 2026. VAD practitioners in those states are strongly advised to contact their local member with their thoughts and recommendations as personal experience and recommendations for change can have a significant influence.

First up is the NSW review, and the VADANZ Board has been busy gathering feedback from NSW members for its submission. Thanks to all those who have already been in touch with thoughts and suggestions.

Later this month, the [2026 Assisted Dying Research Network Conference](#) will take place at Victoria University of Wellington, and VADANZ is proud to be a sponsor. VADANZ Director Susan Jury will be attending, so if you're there, please take a moment to say hello and encourage non-member colleagues to meet Susan.

And while we're on the topic of conferences, a reminder that the [VADCON26](#) call for abstracts remains open until 13 March. You can also [register your interest in the conference](#) to receive key updates.



VAD
CON
2026

Call for abstracts

Abstracts are open for the [2026 Trans-Tasman Voluntary Assisted Dying Conference](#) on 19-20 October in Melbourne.

The theme for this year's conference is ***From margins to mainstream: voluntary assisted dying in end-of-life care***. The offered format is 10-20 minute oral presentations and posters. Areas of interest include:

- Clinical practice and care coordination
- Ethics, law and policy
- Access, equity and inclusion
- Workforce capability, education, wellbeing and support
- Research, data and evaluation
- Models of care and system integration
- Professional standards and clinical governance

Please submit your abstracts [here](#) by **13 March 2026**. And register your interest to attend the conference [here](#).

Submit your abstract

VAD in the news



The [2025 VADANZ Remuneration Survey of VAD practitioners](#) has been garnering much attention in the media.

MJA Insight Plus published an opinion piece by VADANZ president Dr Andrea Bendrups, calling for government action on reimbursement of VAD doctors in Australia. Read the piece here:

[Australia Must Confront the Remuneration Gap in Voluntary Assisted Dying Care](#)

The survey results were also reported in publications such as [The Australian](#), [The Courier-Mail](#), [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(AJP\)](#) and [Medical Republic](#). Dr Bendrups also appeared on [ABC Radio Brisbane](#) speaking about this important issue (listen from the 1:42:20 mark).

The Conversation published a concise wrap of the state of VAD legislation in Australia, covering the NT drafting of legislation, as well as the upcoming reviews in Qld, NSW and Tas. The article says that if VAD becomes legal nation-wide, it makes sense to scrap the telehealth ban and residency requirements.

[Voluntary assisted dying isn't available to all Australians. In 2026, this may finally change](#)

VAD across the trans-Tasman



The **Victorian VAD Review Board**, an independent body that oversees the safe operation of Victoria's Voluntary Assisted Dying law, is seeking **two new board members to begin mid 2026**: a consumer representative with lived experience of VAD, and a board role with legal experience. These are paid roles, with monthly meetings in Victoria. Applications close 9 Feb 2026. [Click here for more information.](#)

WA Health has released **new guidelines for practitioners**: [Advice on how to respond to a first request for VAD](#), clearing up confusion among WA registered health professionals about whether they are allowed to initiate conversations about VAD with patients. It also clarifies practitioners' statutory obligations when a patient makes a first request. The new communication is a response to recommendations from the [Statutory Review of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019](#).

The annual **QVAD Practitioner Forum** is being held 6 Feb 2026, where VAD practitioners get the opportunity to meet face-to-face and discuss issues such as practitioner resilience, organ donation and grief & bereavement. With about 100 practitioners attending, there will be presentations on Commonwealth Criminal Code restrictions, practitioner distress and the role of carers.

Latest Studies



Melbourne University academic Martin Dutch, VADANZ director Susan Jury and colleagues have published [Perspectives on organ donation: a survey of Australian voluntary assisted dying practitioners](#) in the Internal Medicine Journal. This work will contribute to ongoing national discussions between the Organ Donation and VAD sectors. [Read more.](#)

World Watch



UK | Jersey is on track to become the second British Isle to pass an assisted dying law, after the Isle of Man. The final stage of scrutiny is scheduled for the last week of February. [Read more.](#) Meanwhile Lord Falconer is threatening to invoke an ancient piece of legislation to override the House of Lords on the assisted dying bill - which otherwise has little hope of passing. [Read more.](#)

France | The French Sénat has rejected an assisted dying law that was passed by the Assemblée Nationale last year. The law will return next month to the Assemblée, where the government could now allow the lower chamber to definitively pass the legislation without the Sénat's assent. [Read more.](#)

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