

Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia and New Zealand (VADANZ)

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 30 October 2025 | 6.00pm - 7.00pm (AEDT)

via Zoom

Welcome & Opening

Ray Plibersek - Chair

- Welcome to members
- Acknowledgment of Country
- Outline meeting procedures
- Introduction to Directors, acknowledgement of retired directors Dr Keith McArthur and Dr Laura Chapman and welcome to recently appointed director Dr Ian Kamerman
- A quorum was present

Reports (Oral)

President's Report

Dr Sally Cockburn - retiring President

Reflected on a successful year consolidating VADANZ as the peak body for VAD professionals.

Key achievements:

- National remuneration survey of VAD practitioners (confidential member link to follow).
- Established Strategic Advisory Group and student membership.
- Delivered popular webinar series (with thanks to Susan Jury).
- Contributed to legislative reviews and parliamentary inquiries (Victoria, NT, UK).
- Engaged funeral industry partners to improve death certification accuracy.
- Advocated for repeal of federal telehealth restrictions.
- Thanked Go Gentle Australia team (Linda Swan, Kaylie Reyes, Danielle Teutsch) for Secretariat support.

Announced transition to Dr Andrea Bendrups as President.

President-Elect's Report

Dr Andrea Bendrups - Incoming President

Thanked Sally for her leadership over the last 16 months.

Priorities for 2026:

- Finalise remuneration survey recommendations and engage state governments.



- Repeat survey within 12 months to measure progress.
- Continue webinar series—upcoming topic on remuneration.
- Establish structured mentoring for new practitioners.
- Develop concise clinical worksheets/guides for practical use.
- Advocate for telehealth access to VAD services.
- Increase VADANZ visibility among specialist medical societies.

Announced Dr Elizabeth Reymond (QLD) as incoming President-Elect.

Confirmed VADCON 2026 conference: 19–20 October 2026 (AGM + clinical sessions on 18 Oct).

Financial Report

Ray Plibersek - Chair

- Financial Report overview
- Net position improved from \$50,000 (2024) → \$115,000 (June 2025).
- Increase mainly due to membership income; reduced expenditure (no national conference in 2025).
- Directors are unpaid but reimbursed for minimal travel expenses.

Resolutions

The Chair put four motions to the meeting. All three received unanimous votes in favour of the motions. The motions were as follows:

- Motion to approve the 2024 AGM minutes.
- Motion to approve amendments to the Constitution.
- Motion to approve and adopt the 2025 annual report and financial statements.
- Motion to confirm election of directors for an additional 2 years
 - Michael Dooley, Director
 - Susan Jury, Director

Guest presentation

Reflections on VAD Implementation and Legislative Reform in Victoria

Julian Gardner, former Chair: Victorian VAD Review Board

- Reviewed 6.5 years since VAD introduction and recent Victorian reform bill.
- Highlighted positive amendments: 12-month prognosis window, removal of gag clause, shorter waiting time, administering practitioner role.
- Noted ongoing barriers (e.g., institutional opt-outs, reporting offence).
- Reflected on practitioner burdens and importance of adequate remuneration and support.
- Commended VADANZ for its evidence-based advocacy and trans-Tasman scope.

General Business/Q&A



There were questions asked by members from the floor of the meeting.

- **NZ Representation:** Members requested more focus on NZ activities.
Board agreed to expand reporting and seek a NZ board member.
- **Semi-Retired Practitioners:** Discussion on allowing retired specialists to continue VAD work without full registration requirements.
Board agreed that this needs to be explored via working group.

Next Meeting

The next annual general meeting will be held on Sunday 18 October 2026 in Melbourne, Victoria.

Closure

The meeting was closed at 7pm.