



VADANZ

Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia and New Zealand

Dear <<First Name>>

As 2025 unfolds, the VADANZ Board continues working towards growth and strengthening the organisation. One significant step has been the establishment of a **Strategic Advisory Committee** (SAC), created to support the Board with expert guidance, specialist insights, and operational assistance. We are now inviting [expressions of interest](#) (EOI) for additional VADANZ members to join the SAC, with an aim to have representation from all jurisdictions, particularly New Zealand and Tasmania.

The SAC's upcoming discussions will focus on practitioner remuneration, shaping VADANZ's stance on this issue. Currently, remuneration and patient charges lack consistency, and often don't cover the costs of delivering VAD. Your anonymous feedback is crucial in gaining a clearer understanding. Please take a moment to share your experiences via our **anonymous** [survey](#)—your input makes a difference!

In other news, VADANZ has made a submission on proposed VAD legislative reforms to the Victorian Health Department. While these reforms may take time to progress, we remain committed to monitoring developments. Advocacy efforts are also ongoing in South Australia and New Zealand, where repealing restrictive laws like the "gag clause" is necessary.

Finally, with the Federal Election approaching, you may consider engaging candidates on important issues such as the Cth Criminal Code clause that prevents telehealth in VAD. Achieving reform will require a vote in Federal Parliament—your conversations with candidates can help build momentum for change.

As always, thank you for your commitment to better patient end-of-life outcomes.



Dr Sally Cockburn | VADANZ President



Strategic Advisory Committee Member call out

We are looking for volunteers to sit on our new Strategic Advisory Council to meet every two months (on the last Tuesday) to discuss priority topics and give feedback and insights on your jurisdiction.

You would need to be well connected within your peer group and be able to disseminate information and ask for feedback on behalf of VADANZ.

We ask that you [complete the EOI](#) if you are interested. Any questions about the SAC, please feel free to [email us](#).



Remuneration survey

At the recent Voluntary Assisted Dying Conference, remuneration was noted as both the second-highest reason why people were leaving the VAD workforce, and the greatest attractor for new people to start working in VAD.

Could you please **complete our anonymous survey** about your experience to help form the basis of our recommendations to the various jurisdictions. **The survey is for VADANZ members only.** Thank you!



VAD updates

The **Australian Medical Association** has updated its official position on VAD for the first time in almost a decade. In the statement, the AMA acknowledges 'end-of-life care encompasses a variety of health services... including VAD'. The statement stresses that doctors have an ethical duty to provide end-of-life care 'that strives to alleviate pain and suffering, supports an individual's values and preferences for care, and allows them to achieve the best quality of life possible'.

The Medical Journal of Australia has published an article by researchers at the QUT's Australian Centre for Health Law Research outlining the pros and cons of changing Queensland's VAD law to mandate **supervised self-administration**. The article is prompted by a 2024 coronial inquest into the death of a person who consumed a VAD substance prescribed for their spouse.



Perth VAD event

The WA branch of Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) is running an event in Perth, [VAD: Getting comfortable with uncomfortable conversations](#), on Tuesday 29 April.

The session will be delivered by Tanya Burgess, Pharmacy Co-ordinator for the WA VAD Statewide Pharmacy Service and includes an update on the role of an Authorised Disposer.

It will be run as a **hybrid in-person and Zoom event**, and is appropriate for all clinicians and carers involved in VAD services. [Register here](#).



VAD and dementia

Those of you who attended VADCON24 may remember Dr Kylie Ladd's presentation on the complexities of VAD and dementia.

topic.

The paper clearly highlights the legal and ethical challenges of allowing VAD for dementia, as well as the overseas experience in countries such as The Netherlands and Belgium where it is legal.

[Read the issues paper here.](#)



Brisbane assisted dying conference 2026

Save the date: the Australian Centre for Health Law Research (ACHLR) is holding the International Conference on Assisted Dying and Other End of Life Care (ICEL5) from 8-11 April 2026 in Brisbane

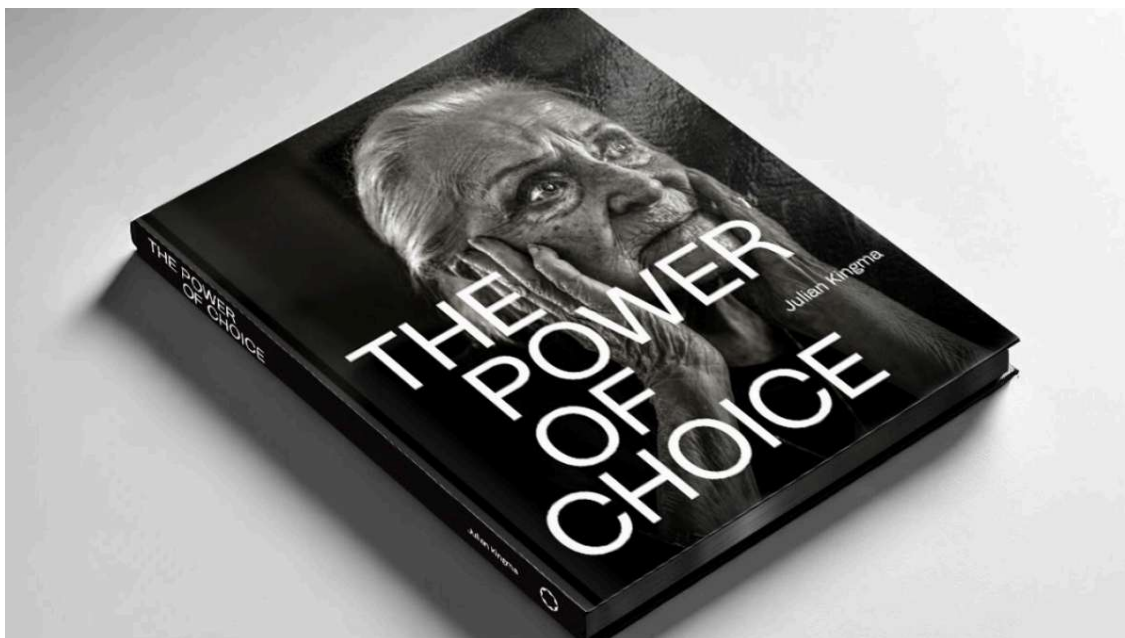
The program will explore empirical, ethical, legal and clinical perspectives on assisted dying and its intersection with other end of life issues.

More information, including about registration and abstract submission will be available on the ICEL5 website – coming soon. In the meantime, register your interest [here](#).



New! Student Membership

there is a new **VADANZ Associates - Student membership** available for \$20 a year. [See here for details.](#)



The Power of Choice

Do you have a colleague or family member that would like to know more about Voluntary Assisted Dying, and why you are involved in this important work? Gift them the [*The Power of Choice*](#) (NewSouth), by award-winning photographer Julian Kingma. *The Power of Choice* captures the real-life faces of VAD in Australia, through a series of intimate portraits and stories. Pre-order the book [here](#).

There will also be events at the [Sydney Writers' Festival](#) and the [Wheeler Centre](#) in May, where Andrew Denton will be in conversation with Julian Kingma.



UK| The [Terminally Ill Adults \(End of Life\) Bill](#) has finished the lengthy committee stage and will have its third reading on 16 May when MPs will vote on amendments. The most significant change is the scrapping of the requirement that a High Court judge must approve all applications, in favour of an expert panel.

Belgium| The [Brussels Times](#) gives an insight into how assisted dying works in Belgium, including the perspective of caregivers and the strain on the system due to an influx of international requests, particularly from France.

Canada| The [United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) has recommended that Canada repeal 'Track 2' of its Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) program, which is available for people with a non-terminal illness. It also recommended no further expansion to include people with mental illness. [Read more.](#)

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