



# VADANZ

Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia and New Zealand

Dear <<First Name>>

We have seen some fantastic progress in VAD this month. The [2026 State of VAD Report](#), released on 31 March, provides a clear snapshot of VAD progress across Australia and New Zealand. It highlights achievements and areas for improvement, drawing on data from the 2024–25 reporting period. It also includes results from the Go Gentle 2025 Australian Voluntary Assisted Dying Survey, and feedback from patients, families, and health professionals.

I also attended the [International Conference on Assisted Dying and Other End of Life Care \(ICEL5\)](#) in Brisbane. As always, it was inspiring, with valuable insights across clinical practice, policy, and patient care. The evolving relationship between VAD and palliative care is being carefully monitored and international data suggests increasing integration. Stimulating presentations explored advance directives and other ways to determine mode of death after loss of capacity. Sessions on VAD and organ donation, and VAD in mature minors generated robust discussion. I can strongly recommend ICEL6 in Amsterdam in 2028!

Early bird tickets will go on sale for [VADCON26](#) later this month. We are securing speakers to develop some of the streams highlighted at ICEL5 but with an Australasian perspective. **Abstract submissions close on 19 April** so don't miss the opportunity to present your work at Australia and New Zealand's premier VAD conference.

ICEL5 speakers stressed the importance of data from health practitioners to ensure ongoing system safety, improvements and clinician wellbeing. In response, this newsletter will now include a **monthly member question** to help shape our direction. This month's question focuses on quality care principles. Details are below, and I look forward to your insights.

VADANZ is continuing to seek Expressions of Interest for future special interest groups, including **remuneration and education** for VAD practitioners. If you would like to contribute, we encourage you to get in touch. Your expertise will help shape the future of VAD practice and policy across our region.



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## VAD question of the month



VADANZ is working to define what quality care looks like in the context of VAD. Insights gathered will inform the development of our **Quality Care Key Principles for Voluntary Assisted Dying**.

We invite VADANZ members to contribute by reflecting on the following question:

### **What does quality care look like when it comes to VAD?**

[Please share your thoughts by completing this form.](#)

VADANZ will continue to engage members through regular surveys in our newsletter. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping our strategic direction and enhancing your experience as a VADANZ member.

## We need your help

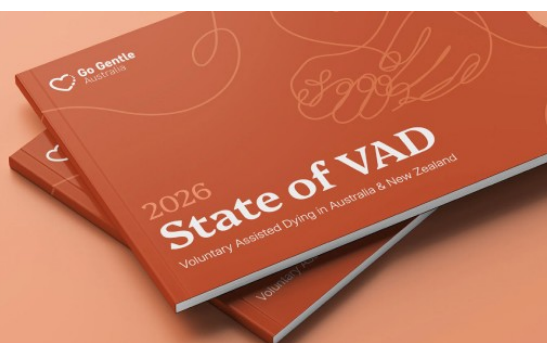


VADANZ continues to seek Expressions of Interest for future special interest groups, including those focused on **remuneration and education for VAD practitioners**.

If you have expertise in these areas and are interested in contributing, we encourage you to get in touch. Your knowledge will play an important role in shaping the future of VAD practice and policy across our region. Email [policy@vadanzenz.org.au](mailto:policy@vadanzenz.org.au)

## State of VAD report 2026

[Read the report here](#)

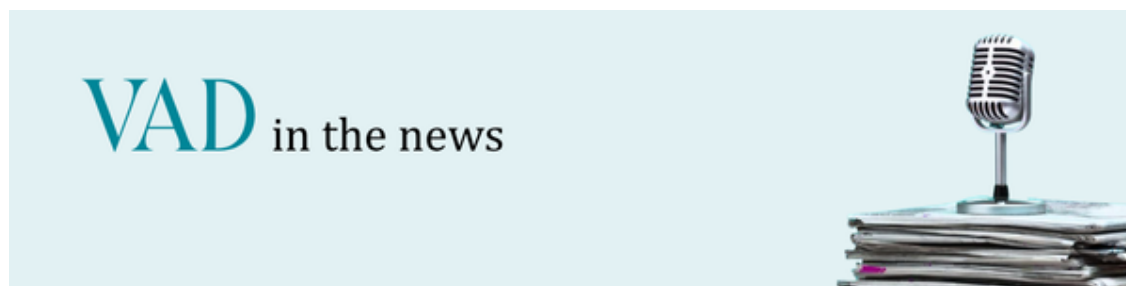


Go Gentle's **2026 State of VAD Report** was launched at Parliament House in Canberra, with attendance from policymakers, health organisations, community members as well as VADANZ President Elect Elizabeth Reymond. Speakers included AMA ACT President Dr Kerry Aust and Go Gentle's CEO Dr Linda Swan alongside founding director Andrew Denton.

The report shows that in 2024–25:

- There were 6,627 VAD applicants in Australia and 1,066 in New Zealand. This is an increase of 41% and 20% respectively.
- In Australia, VAD services are supported by 1,614 trained practitioners, including 1,248 doctors and 341 nurses

[Read the 2026 State of VAD report](#)



**National** | Go Gentle's **2026 State of VAD Report** launch at Parliament House in Canberra received extensive media coverage in publications including [Australian Doctor](#), [Medical Republic](#), [The Canberra Times](#), [The West Australian](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [The Age](#) and [The Courier Mail](#).

**QLD** | The University of Queensland published an article on research by Helen Haydon and Imogen Summers showing that telehealth in VAD poses no risk and should be allowed. [Calls for equal access to voluntary assisted dying using telehealth](#). The [Courier-Mail](#) ran a series of articles highlighting the Commonwealth Criminal Code's restrictions on telehealth which disproportionately affects rural and regional patients and practitioners.

**NT** | The Northern Territory Attorney General has responded to last year's Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee draft VAD legislation. The NT government confirmed it is on track to introduce VAD legislation by mid 2026, however it has included a 12-month timeframe and a GP gag clause, against the committee's recommendations. [Read more.](#)

**NZ** | ACT MP Todd Stephenson talks about his private member's bill, which would expand access to the End of Life Choice assisted dying law - including extending the timeframe to death from 6-12 months. [Watch here.](#)



**Abstract submissions will soon close** 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

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## Submit your abstract



The *Australian Journal of General Practice* has published research from QUT's end-of-life law team on GP involvement in VAD in Queensland. The study finds disincentives for community-based GPs to take up VAD work, from poor remuneration, to complexity of processes and paperwork, time consuming mandatory training and a public health model of VAD where the majority of practitioners are employed through Qld Health. [General practitioners' experiences of voluntary assisted dying in Queensland](#)



**Scotland** | The Scottish parliament voted against legalising assisted dying after critics and religious groups led a campaign to block the measures. MSPs voted 69 to 57 to reject the proposals despite a series of last-minute amendments designed to placate critics of the private member's bill. [Read more.](#)

**Canada** | Alberta has introduced legislation that will add restrictions to medical assistance in dying (MAID), because of concerns about safeguards. If Bill 18 passed, it would bring laws closer in line with the Australian model. [Read more.](#)

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