



# VADANZ

Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia and New Zealand

Dear <<First Name>>

As we approach the long-awaited implementation of VAD in the ACT this November, it's striking to reflect on the Northern Territory's position. Once a global pioneer with the historic Rights of the Terminally Ill Act 1995, the NT now stands as the only Australian jurisdiction without VAD legislation.

There is, however, some encouraging movement. This month, the NT's Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee is conducting VAD consultation hearings across a dozen locations, with a final report expected by the end of September. VADANZ will be making a submission. You can learn more about the consultation process [here](#).

We sincerely hope this current momentum leads to timely legislative action—ensuring that terminally ill Territorians and their families are finally afforded the dignity of end-of-life choice.

Back to the other Territory, the ACT. This month is the [Voluntary Assisted Dying ACT Implementation Conference](#), and VADANZ President Elect Dr Andrea Bendrups will be attending as she prepares to step up as President later this year. Don't forget about our upcoming VADANZ AGM in October! Watch this space for more details.

This month, VADANZ director Dr Clare Fellingham and myself will also be presenting to the WA VAD Review board.

Finally, please take a moment to do our confidential Annual Member Survey, so we can hear more about how to best support you.



**Dr Sally Cockburn | VADANZ President**

## Annual Member Survey 2025

### Help us support you better

We're launching our inaugural Member Survey to hear directly from our members about what VADANZ can provide to best support you. Your insights will help us shape our priorities and offerings over the next 12 - 18 months.

It will only take a few minutes to complete and your responses will be kept confidential but will have influence over member offerings.

*Survey closes Tuesday 19 August 2025*

[Take the survey now](#)



2025 VADANZ Webinar series

**REPLAY**

**The pharmacology of VAD**

Time: 5.30pm AEST, 7.30pm NZST  
Date: Tuesday 19 August, 2025

Replay of the July 2024 webinar with live Q&A

**Webinar 19 August - register now**

You are invited to the next webinar in our 2025 series on Tuesday 19 August 2025.

Join us for a replay of the popular July 2024 webinar: 'The pharmacology of VAD' which explores VAD pharmacology and physiology - 'what we didn't learn from our primaries'.

During the replay VADANZ's Professor Michael Dooley and Susan Jury will be facilitating your questions in real time.

This free webinar is only for VADANZ members and will not be published on the website due to the sensitivity of the content.

[Register for the webinar](#)



**Assisted Dying in NZ**

The New Zealand Ministry of Health Annual Report has been released, covering the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

- 472 people had an assisted death
- 80% identified as New Zealand European/Pākehā, and 5% as Māori
- 65% had a cancer diagnosis

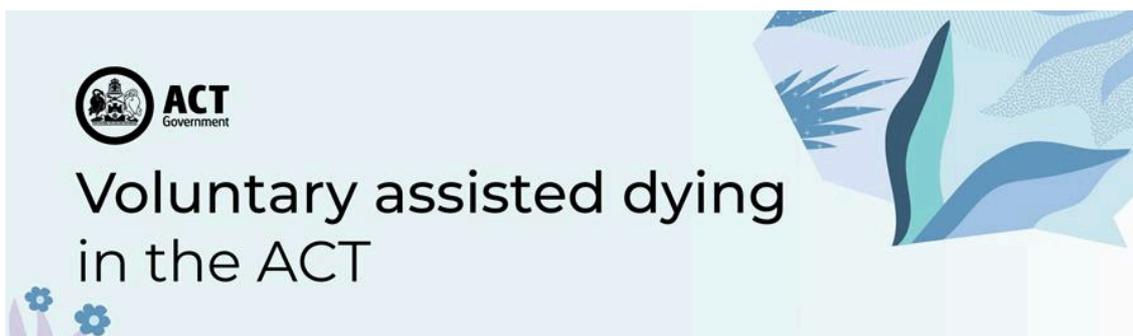
[Read the report here.](#)



### Calling Vic VAD practitioners

Victorian VAD Trained Medical Practitioners are invited to participate in a research study designed to explore the experiences, challenges of VAD training and practice. This study will also explore strategies to sustain the VAD workforce in the state. The study is managed by Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in conjunction with the University of Melbourne.

If you are interested in participating, please complete [this form](#), and a member of the research team will be in contact with you if found eligible for the study.



### ACT health practitioners - we need you!

Please share with your colleagues in the ACT - applications are open for medical practitioners, nurse practitioners and registered nurses who wish to become a VAD practitioner.

There will be at least two VAD training sessions scheduled before the introduction of VAD in the ACT on 3 November 2025.

[Find out more and how to apply here.](#)



## OPCC

VAD is on the agenda at the **2025 Oceanic Palliative Care Conference (25OPCC)** in Brisbane.

Expect to see and hear from the following VADANZ members at the conference:

**Professor Liz Reymond** - Director of QVAD Support, presenting on palliative care in primary health

**Caroline Scott** - holding a workshop on responding to VAD in a faith based palliative care unit

**Helen Haydon** - presenting on Telehealth use in VAD: A systematic review

Keynote speaker will be **Kate Reed** – Director of the ACT's Voluntary Assisted Dying Implementation Taskforce.

25OPCC is a valuable opportunity for VADANZ members to connect across sectors. The conference will be held September 10-11, 2025. [Register here](#)



## Keep up to date with the latest research

[Voluntary assisted dying—Australia in an international context.](#) Katrine Del Villar, Lindy Willmott, Ben P White. *Medical Law Review*.

This research from the team at QUT provides a summary of Australia's VAD laws and

[Implementing voluntary assisted dying in New South Wales correctional settings.](#) Diya Ahluwalia. *MJA*.

A look at the ethical and legal challenges of integrating VAD into the NSW correctional settings.

[Navigating life when a loved one's \(euthanasia\) death is near: A narrative interview study from the Netherlands.](#) Roest B, Milota M, Leget C. *PLoS One*. 2025.

Researchers tell of a fascinating shift of perspective during the course of the study, realising to what extent medical professionals take part in the profoundly social-relational experience of death and dying within families.



**UK** | The [Terminally Ill Adults \(End of Life\) Bill](#) has completed its passage through the Commons. Its second reading in the House of Lords is due to take place on 12 September 2025. Read the latest [research briefing here](#).

**Slovenia** | Slovenia has passed assisted dying laws. The law will exclude people suffering from a mental illness. [Read more](#).

**Cyprus** | Parliament will begin a debate in September on a bill to legalise assisted dying. [Read more](#).

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