



VADANZ

Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia and New Zealand

Dear <<First Name>>

As we begin the new financial year, we're reminded of one of VADANZ's key strategic priorities: building a sustainable organisation.

Financial sustainability depends on growing a diverse and representative membership base—across all geographies and disciplines involved in delivering VAD services. That means listening to you, our members. Your input is vital to shaping our future.

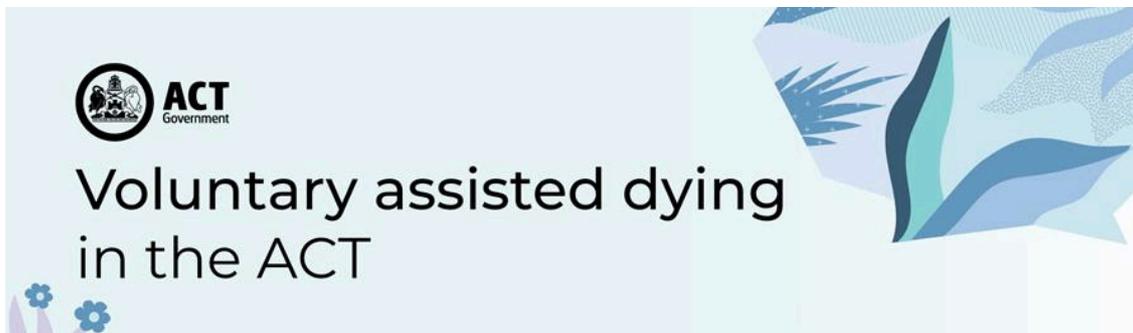
Soon, you'll receive a member engagement survey, designed to help us understand your priorities and how we can better support you. Keep an eye out for it.

To everyone who completed the remuneration survey—thank you. We're currently analysing the valuable insights you provided and working to develop and implement a robust strategy to address the issues raised. We look forward to sharing the findings with you soon.

Meanwhile, it's encouraging to see VAD practitioner training beginning in the ACT ahead of implementation in November. If you have colleagues in the ACT, we encourage you to spread the word and support them in getting involved. Awareness of VAD remains low across both the broader community and the health sector—every conversation counts.



Dr Sally Cockburn | VADANZ President



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.](#)



Conference Watch

We are very pleased that, for the first time, there will be a VAD stream at the **2025 Oceanic Palliative Care Conference (25OPCC)** in Brisbane. Keynote speakers include Kate Reed – a Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner and Director of the ACT's Voluntary Assisted Dying Implementation Taskforce.

25OPCC is a valuable opportunity for VADANZ members to connect across sectors, and learn new ways to integrate their practice. The conference will be held September 10-11, 2025.

[Register here](#); **early bird closes 30 June**.

Abstract submission and registration is now open for the **International Conference on Assisted Dying and Other End of Life Care (ICEL5)**.

The team at QUT's [Australian Centre for Health Law Research](#) welcome presentations sharing empirical, ethical, legal and clinical perspectives on assisted dying and its intersection with other end of life issues. The conference will be held in Brisbane, April 8-11, 2026. Abstract submission is open until Sunday 31 August 2025. More information on the [ICEL5 website](#) here.

Abstracts are also open until 3 August for the **Inaugural Conference on Imagining the Ideal Assisted Dying Service in Aotearoa: Access, Safety, & Equity** to be held on 12-13 February 2026 at Victoria University of Wellington. For more information on abstracts submission, speakers and ticket prices see the [Assisted Dying Research Network website](#).



The AMA QLD is calling for a \$2 million annual investment to support VAD services in the state.

It says public and private services are reporting a shortfall in the supply of VAD assistance, borne by patients wanting to access care via their trusted GP. [Read more.](#)

Are you often asked - why do you work in voluntary assisted dying?

VADANZ director Clare Fellingham has written an article for *MJA Insight Plus* answering that very question, articulating the impact of her VAD work professionally and personally.

She recounts the story of George*, one of her patients who gave her an unforgettable gift moments before his VAD administration. [Read the article here.](#) and share it with your medical colleagues to encourage them to do VAD training.

QLD GP Dr Peter Stephenson has argued for **expanded eligibility for VAD** in *Australian Doctor*, citing the case of his 99-year-old mother who suffered multiple fractures but was not terminally ill.

[Read the article.](#)

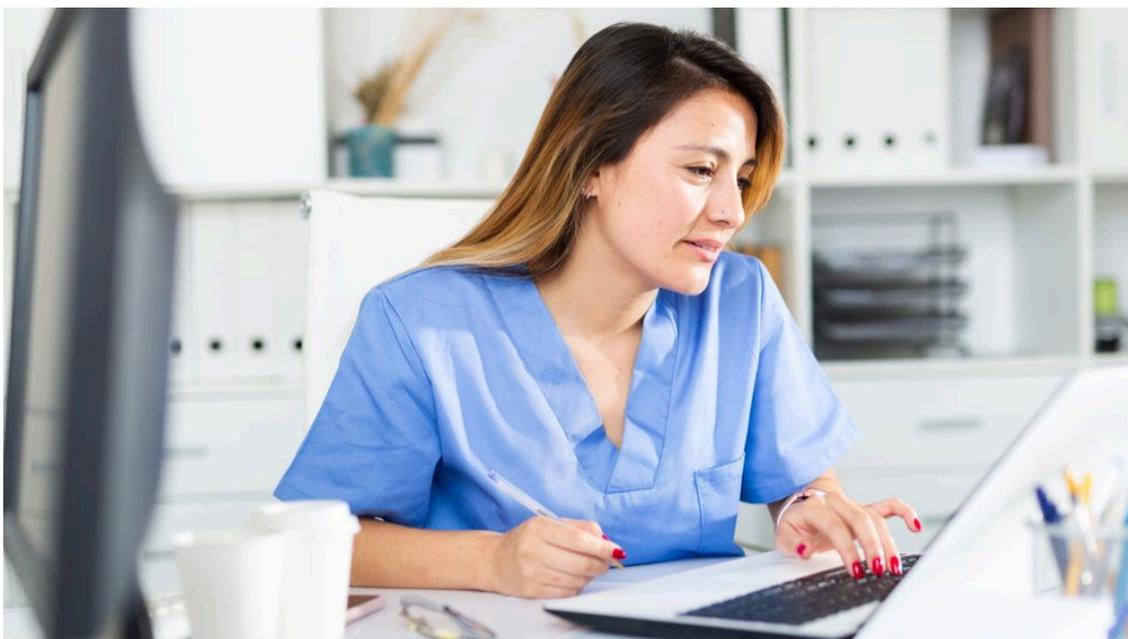
And Tasmanian MLC Mike Gaffney has called for the creation of an **online VAD portal** as in other jurisdictions, as health practitioners are currently relying on One Drive. One doctor told him: "The current One Drive system is clunky, email based and relies on us searching for and downloading PDF forms, filling them out and emailing them to the Commission. Currently, if we miss a field or box, the Commission will chase us and then there are a series of emails to-and-fro to amend the error.". [Read the article in The Mercury here \(page 38\).](#) Tasmania's VAD laws are set to be reviewed later this year.



Changing perspectives on participation in assisted dying in Queensland, Australia: A one-year qualitative longitudinal study of doctors. Laura Ley Greaves, Lindy Willmott, Rachel Feeney and Ben White. *Death Studies*, 2025.

Preparing for voluntary assisted dying: A qualitative analysis of practitioners' perceptions of voluntary assisted dying before the law begins in Queensland, Australia. Laura Ley Greaves, Lindy Willmott, Rachel Feeney and Ben P White. *Death Studies*, 2025.

'This is perfect, thank you': Research poetry on gratitude for voluntary assisted dying in Victoria, Australia. Ben White, Ruthie Jeanneret, Sarah Holland-Batt and Evonne Miller. *Australasian Journal on Ageing*, 2025.



NEW VADANZ education resources

Check out our new [Education Resource page](#) on our website. Here you will find a curated collection of tools, resources, articles and fact sheets for health professionals as well as the public. You can find the resources [here](#).



[more.](#)

US | The New York State Senate has passed the Medical Aid in Dying Act, clearing the final hurdle after a decade of attempts to introduce an assisted dying law. The bill now has to be signed off by the Governor, Kathy Hochul.

Malta | Public consultation has begun on assisted dying. A group of advocates has formed an online platform '[Choice. Dignity](#)' where supporters can make a submission.

[VADANZ Website](#)[Facebook](#)

Copyright © 2025 VADANZ, All rights reserved.
admin@vadanzenz.com.au

[unsubscribe here](#)