



VADANZ

Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia and New Zealand

Dear <<First Name>>

We have had a productive month advancing VAD, with ongoing interest in the [VADANZ remuneration report](#) from health departments across Australia. I continue to engage with departmental representatives to advocate for fair and sustainable remuneration for practitioners. This remains a priority as we work to support clinicians delivering VAD care.

Recently, the family of Sydney broadcaster **James Valentine** shared the news he had accessed VAD following two years of cancer treatment. We extend our condolences and acknowledge his important role in raising awareness of VAD.

Go Gentle Australia has released findings from its [National Voluntary Assisted Dying Survey 2025](#), the largest snapshot of community awareness and lived experience to date. Responses from over 7,500 Australians indicate overwhelmingly positive perceptions, with 93% reporting relief of suffering and 78% rating care as high quality. However, access remains inconsistent.

The use of **telehealth** for VAD assessments has been in the news recently and the VADANZ Board has been reviewing data from overseas experience (some of which was presented at the recent ICEL5 conference) to inform its drafting of a [position statement on the use of electronic communications for VAD](#). More information can be found below.

Finally, we are asking members to consider joining a **VADANZ special interest group**. These groups will harness the vast knowledge and expertise of VADANZ members and play a role in shaping the future of our activities. Please consider joining a group on education or research, or suggest a future special interest group topic.



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We need your help



VADANZ is exploring the establishment of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) which will meet throughout the year to discuss key topics and help inform future activities and initiatives.

We are currently seeking expressions of interest for the following groups:

- VADANZ Education Special Interest Group
- VADANZ Research Special Interest Group

If you are interested in participating in either group, please [get in touch](#). We also welcome suggestions for additional SIGs.

VAD policy



VADANZ has released its [position statement on the use of electronic communications in VAD care](#).

Under the Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth), the use of electronic communications in VAD remains restricted. Health professionals who use telehealth or other electronic means to “counsel, promote or provide instruction” related to VAD may be exposed to criminal liability under federal law.

VADANZ maintains that in-person care remains the preferred standard. However, where this is not feasible, VADANZ supports the use of telehealth for VAD service delivery, including eligibility assessments. Decisions regarding telehealth should be made in partnership with patients, guided by their best interests and where equivalent clinical outcomes can be achieved, consistent with person-centred care.

This position aligns with that of the Australian Medical Association, which has noted that restrictions on telehealth for VAD disproportionately impact patients in regional areas and those with limited mobility.

Current legislative restrictions contribute to delays, inequitable access, and increased burden on both patients and clinicians. VADANZ will continue to advocate for legislative reform to support safe, equitable, and accessible VAD care.

VAD in the news



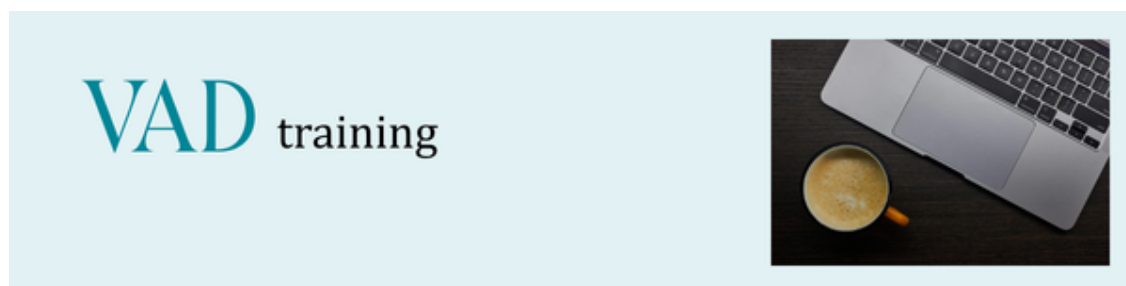
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Canada. [Listen to the podcast here.](#)

VIC | Victorian MP Emma Vulin is calling for a review on telehealth laws. Emma lives with MND and understands she may one day be faced with choosing VAD. She has called on Attorney-General Michelle Rowland to review the laws on telehealth as "a matter of priority". [Read more.](#)

WA | WA VADANZ Director Clare Fellingham was interviewed in *The West Australian* by WA Attorney-General Tony Buti for his regular column. Clare touches on the emotional toll VAD can take on practitioners. [Read more.](#)

NSW | ABC broadcaster, James Valentine chose VAD in late April after a terminal cancer diagnosis. The intense media interest has highlighted some of the access barriers others still face. [Read more.](#)



The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) is running a three-part series on **death certificates** for GPs and GP registrars. The series will include a section on VAD and why it can't be included on a death certificate. [Click here for more details.](#)

End-of-Life Law for Clinicians (ELLC) will be hosting a **free webinar** on Tuesday 26 May for GPs and other primary care clinicians. This webinar will cover core knowledge on VAD as well as practitioners' legal obligations. This session is RACGP-approved CPD activity under the RACGP CPD Program. [Click here to register.](#)



Clinicians involved in VAD are invited to provide feedback as part of the three-year review of Tasmania's End-of-Life Choices (Voluntary Assisted Dying) Act 2021.

The review will assess whether the Act is operating effectively and achieving its intended objectives. Input is sought from registered health practitioners with experience in VAD, as well as organisations and individuals with relevant expertise. [Click here to review the Terms of Reference for the Tasmanian review.](#)

While in-person consultation sessions for Northern Tasmania have closed, consultations for those in Southern Tasmania will be held during the week commencing 1 June.

VADANZ will be preparing a submission on behalf of its Tasmanian members. If you would like to contribute, please [email us](#) by **Friday 8 May**.

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A University of Queensland study has highlighted the ethical issues around advising patients about **organ donation and VAD**. The paper looks at the necessity of speaking to patients about organ donation, but the importance of timing and approach.

[Advising Voluntary Assisted Dying Patients About the Option of Organ Donation](#)

VAD question of the month



This month, we invite you to share your experiences with **telehealth in the context of VAD care**.

Many of you will be aware of ongoing advocacy to amend the Criminal Code Act to enable the use of telehealth in the VAD process. We are particularly interested in hearing about any challenges you have encountered. Responses can be provided anonymously.

Have you had any experiences (good or bad) using telehealth for VAD?

Please follow [this link](#) to leave your feedback



Early-bird tickets will go on sale later this month for the [2026 Trans-Tasman Voluntary Assisted Dying Conference](#) on 19-20 October in Melbourne.

The conference will include two closed sessions for VADANZ members only. These sessions will include presentations from the Chairs of the VAD Review Boards as well as a panel discussion on VAD medicine administration. Don't forget to [register your interest](#) in the conference to receive updates.

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World Watch



UK Changes will have to be made to the Isle of Man's Assisted Dying Bill before it can be given Royal Assent, the UK government has said. The Isle of Man was the first place in the UK to legalise VAD, however several safeguards will now have to be approved before people can access it. [Read more.](#)

UK Some supporters are blaming 'a handful of unelected peers' for sabotaging efforts to legalise assisted dying in the UK. The proposed bill fell through due to what opponents have called poorly written legislation which 'did not address practical concerns about how assisted dying would work in practice.' [Read more.](#)

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