



VADANZ

Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia and New Zealand

Dear <<First Name>>

It's a privilege to step into the role of President, and I want to thank **Dr Sally Cockburn** for her outstanding leadership over the past 16 months. Her energy and commitment have kept us moving forward at such a busy time.

The ACT is in its first week of implementation, while the Victorian Upper House is preparing to debate important reforms to the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act (2017). You can read the [VADANZ statement on the reforms](#) on our website.

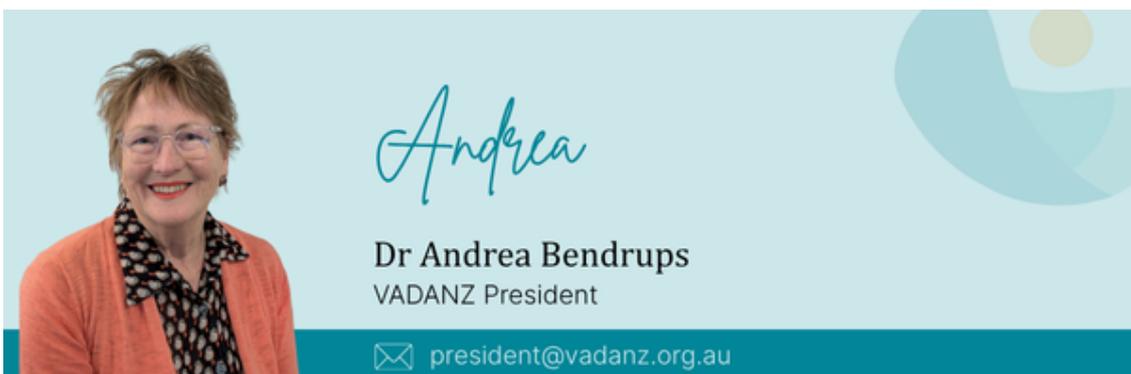
This year's [Remuneration Survey](#) was a major milestone, revealing significant disparities across jurisdictions and dissatisfaction among practitioners. We can now share the results with you and welcome your feedback, as we develop recommendations to take to government. A fairer, more sustainable structure will require engagement with various jurisdictions and careful navigation of funding complexities. We will keep you informed of our plans and progress.

We're also working to support the VAD workforce more broadly. Our popular webinar series will continue, and we're planning a dedicated session on remuneration. We welcome suggestions for other webinar topics and speakers—especially if you'd like to share your own expertise or nominate someone to speak.

Looking further ahead, we're exploring ways to raise awareness of VAD within specialist medical societies, including offering guest speakers at their events. We're also continuing to advocate for telehealth access, especially for those in remote areas.

For these next 12 months I'm thrilled to be working alongside our incoming **President-Elect Dr Elizabeth Reymond**, director of the Brisbane South Palliative Care Collaborative. She's an incredibly experienced practitioner and will bring a wealth of experience to VADANZ.

Lastly, please save the date for **VADCON26** in Melbourne, with the AGM and clinical sessions held in the leadup. These practitioner-only discussions are a valued space for connection and learning. I look forward to meeting as many of you there as possible.



2025 AGM



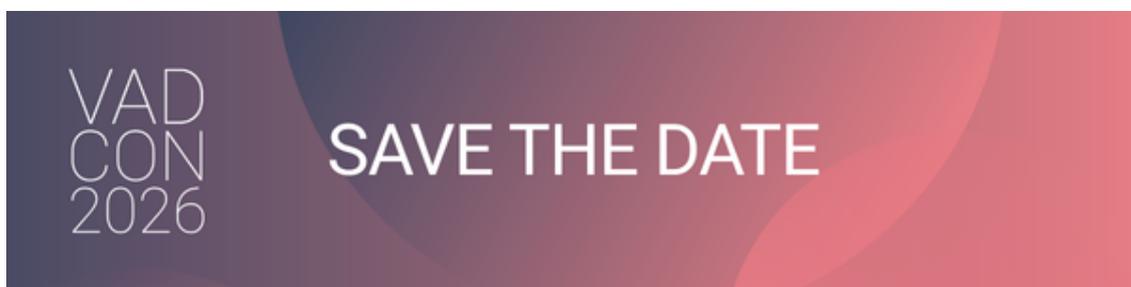
Our 2025 AGM was held on Thursday 30 October; thank you to all who attended.

Dr Sally Cockburn did her final report to the membership and officially handed over the presidency to Dr Andrea Bendrups.

VADANZ welcomed President-Elect Professor Elizabeth Reymond and new director Dr Ian Kamerman, and re-elected directors Professor Michael Dooley and Susan Jury.

Thank you to Julian Gardner AM, immediate past Chair of the Victorian VAD Review Board. Julian presented on his experiences over the last six years from Victorian Implementation to the first legislative review.

A full summary is available [here](#)



We are thrilled to announce the next Trans-Tasman Voluntary Assisted Dying Conference will be held on Monday 19 & Tuesday 20 October 2026 in Melbourne. We will also be holding a hybrid AGM and some clinical sessions* on Sunday 18 October 2026.

To be one of the first to know about what's happening with the conference please [register your interest](#).

Any questions in relation to the conference please contact conference@gogentleaustralia.org.au

*Clinical sessions will be open to Practising Members only.

Register your interest

Remuneration Survey Update



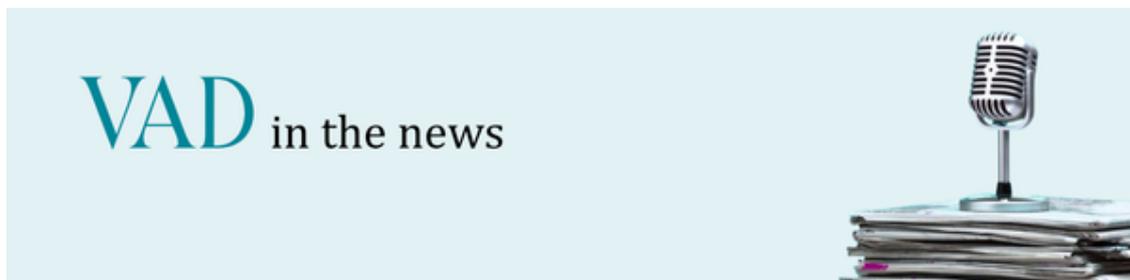
Thanks again to all those who participated in our **VAD Practitioner Remuneration Survey 2025**. We had 170 respondents, representing 12% of the national VAD workforce. **The report is now available to read on our website** and will inform our advocacy around this important issue in 2026.

Here are the key findings:

- More than a quarter of VAD practitioners provide unpaid VAD care (27%)
- Around half bill for part of the VAD process through the MBS (47%)

- In Victoria 65% of VAD practitioners believed the current payment model for VAD service was inadequate.
- South Australia and Tasmania have small VAD workforces and a low number of respondents, however they all reported high levels of dissatisfaction with the existing remuneration arrangements.
- NSW was the only state where more respondents believed that their remuneration was adequate (51%) than not (41%).

Read the VAD Practitioner Remuneration Survey 2025



Victoria | The [Voluntary Assisted Dying Amendment Bill 2025](#) has cleared Victoria's Lower House 67 votes to 14. The Bill must now pass the Upper House where it is expected to have a more difficult passage. The proposed reforms include removing the 'gag clause', changing prognosis timelines from six months to 12 months, and expanding the administering practitioner cohort to include nurse practitioners and registered nurses. [Read the VADANZ statement on the reforms.](#)

NSW | Liberal MLC Susan Carter has introduced a [bill to amend NSW VAD laws](#) to give faith-based aged care providers the right to prevent residents from accessing VAD, obliging them to make alternative arrangements. Under the current Act, an aged care home can choose not to participate in the provision of VAD but must not hinder a patient's access. The bill will be debated next week. [Read the report in the SMH](#)

NT | The NT Government has begun drafting VAD laws, with a bill to be introduced in early 2026. Monash and Charles Darwin Uni scholars have explained the background to VAD in the NT, its unique cultural and demographic context and how it will make any future VAD law there different from "down south".
Read the article in [The Conversation](#)

Tas | [Tasmania's VAD Commission Annual Report 24-25](#) has been published. Demand for VAD has increased, with the number of VAD deaths (total of 109) 73% higher than the previous year. VAD deaths as a proportion of all deaths in Tasmania increased from 1.2 deaths to 2.1%.

The report noted that while the number of practitioners had risen, there was a shortage in regions such as the Tasman Peninsula and West Coast.

The Australian Journal of General Practice has published a [Guest Editorial: Voluntary assisted dying](#) by Sara Townend and Penelope Burns from the NSW VAD team. It encourages GPs to increase their knowledge of VAD so they are equipped for end-of-life discussions with patients. There will be a series of articles on VAD in the AJGP to help guide this.

ACT - a new dawn

The long-awaited ACT implementation began this week, with 29 VAD practitioners trained up and care navigators already fielding enquiries.

The ACT VAD clinical guidelines are available on the [ACT Government website](#). The guidelines describe the voluntary assisted dying process in the ACT and supports health professionals to adhere to the law.

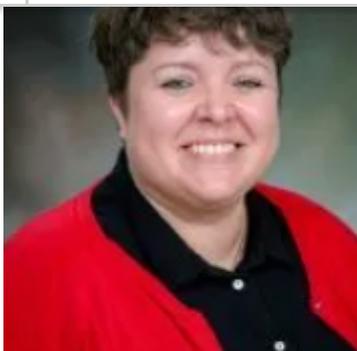
[ELDAC](#) has also updated its [factsheet](#) giving an overview of VAD laws across jurisdictions to include the new ACT law.

Webinar Series 2025

A reminder that all members are welcome to the final of our 2025 webinar series ***Ethical Challenges & VAD*** on Thursday 20 November 2025, 6.00pm (AEDT)

In this FREE 1.5 hour webinar, **ethicist Emma Tumilty** will introduce us to some ethical frameworks then use these to unpack three challenging VAD scenarios. Our Panelists are:

- **Adam Rutyna**, Loddon Mallee Regional VAD Navigator and clinical nurse consultant, Victoria
- **Dr Katie Ben**, anaesthetist, pilot & VAD clinician, NZ
- **Dr Max Ryder**, VAD clinician & Rural Generalist SMO - Mackay Hospital & Health Service, Queensland



Register for the webinar



[A public health perspective on assisted dying and its different modalities](#) (*The Lancet Public Health*) discusses the need for harmonised terminology, comparable data, and clear standards of care now that assisted dying is legal in at least 12 countries.

[Comparative Analysis of Individual Case Reviews in Assisted Dying Oversight Systems Internationally](#) (*European Journal of Comparative Law and Governance*). This paper by the end-of-life law team at QUT compares the various international approaches to oversight of individual cases of assisted dying.

VADANZ Website

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