



**VADANZ**  
Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia and New Zealand

## We need you

Dear <<First Name>>

Would you like to be involved in **shaping policy and advocacy** for high-quality VAD care in Australia and New Zealand? Do you have the capacity to provide expert advice?

We are calling for **expressions of interest** for closer involvement in the organisation as we grow, whether it be on the Board of Directors or as part of our working groups, presenting webinars or helping formulate policy.

As VADANZ matures as an organisation, we aim to leverage our members' broad and considerable expertise to improve patient care, and **share knowledge in the emerging practice of VAD**.

This organisation cannot succeed without your help. Please [get in touch here](#) with your area of interest, your capacity and how you'd like to be involved.



**VADANZ President Dr Cam McLaren**



## Victorian review submission

VADANZ has called on the Victorian government to make changes to the way Voluntary Assisted Dying services operate in the state in its five-year operational review.

[Key recommendations](#) include:

- Medical practitioners and other health professionals should be able to **initiate discussions with patients** regarding VAD, within the context of end-of-life treatment options
- Allow patients to receive high-quality and effective VAD services using **telehealth**. [Read more here.](#)



## VAD and Telehealth

VADANZ President Dr Cam McLaren travelled to Canberra to join **Independent Federal MP Kate Chaney** as she introduced a bill to amend the **Commonwealth Criminal Code** and allow telehealth to be used in the VAD assessment process. Dr McLaren presented the

suggest that this jeopardises patient safety."

[Read more here.](#)

A promotional banner for the VAD CON 2024 conference. The left side features a photograph of an elderly couple embracing, with the text 'VAD CON 2024' overlaid in large white letters. The right side has a red background with white text: 'Trans-Tasman Voluntary Assisted Dying Conference 2024' and '28-29 Oct | Brisbane'. At the bottom right are logos for 'Go Gentle Australia', 'VADANZ Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia and New Zealand', and 'QUT Australian Centre for Health Law Research'.

## Call for abstracts

This year, VADANZ is again co-hosting the **Trans-Tasman Voluntary Assisted Dying Conference** and we invite you to **submit an abstract for presentation**.

The theme for this year's conference is **Access and Equity**. The offered **format** is 10 minute oral presentations. Please [submit your abstracts](#) by **30 May 2024**. And [register your interest in attending the conference here](#).





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The [VADANZ forums](#) on our website offer a confidential place for our members to discuss useful or interesting information about VAD practice.

Members can find **conversations on subjects** ranging from prognosis tools to self-care, as well as important updates on research.

Don't hesitate to post a question or share a thought. The forums enable us to feel part of a community of practice. [Check out our forums here.](#)



## VAD in NSW

NSW now has **250 doctors and nurse practitioners** who have completed the registration and mandatory VAD training requirements. Another **200** additional health professionals have started training.

The **first publicly identified person** to use VAD in the state, Lola Hope Dickson, died at Springwood Hospital, west of Sydney, in February. You can [read more about Lola's story here.](#)

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## World watch

**UK** | Opposition leader Keir Starmer has promised [a free vote on assisted dying](#) if elected.

**France** | French president Emmanuel Macron has announced [an assisted dying bill](#).

**Ireland** | A parliamentary committee has recommended [assisted dying laws](#). VADANZ members played an important role, with Dr Peter Allcroft, Dr Laura Chapman, and Dr Cam McLaren, addressing the committee in January.

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admin@vadan.com.au

**Our mailing address is:**

PO Box 596, Berwick VIC 3806

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