

Voluntary assisted dying commences in South Australia

After 27 years, and 17 attempts at law reform, voluntary assisted dying (VAD) is now a legal end of life choice in South Australia. VAD commenced in South Australia on January 31st 2023. South Australians are now able to take the first steps to making a request for an assisted death.

The day was marked with a gathering to acknowledge and thank those who have fought so hard to achieve law reform.

The Hon Kyam Maher, MLC, now our Attorney General, and the Hon Susan Close, MP, now our Deputy Premier, were presented with awards in recognition of their special and essential role in finally achieving a compassionate end of life choice for South Australians. Kyam Maher tabled the original VAD Bill as a Private Member, and with the enormous assistance of Susan Close in the House of Assembly, negotiated its successful passage through the South Australian Parliament in 2021.

During the gathering special recognition was given to VADSA President, Frances Coombe, who has been such a tireless advocate for decades. Each was presented with an award in thanks and recognition. The centrality of compassion was highlighted in each award. (See photograph page 2).

VADSA vice president and policy officer, Anne Bunning, was also given heartfelt thanks for her role in providing strategic advice and expertise which was critical to legislative success.

Also present were other advocates, supporters, and advisors who have worked hard in many different ways towards achieving law reform. They included Angie Miller, Jacqui Possingham, Liz and Brett Habermann, Dr Roger Hunt, VADSA



L-R Dr Susan Close, VADSA President Frances Coombe, Attorney General Kyam Maher, and Policy Officer Anne Bunning.

patron Dr John Willoughby, Dr Arnold Gillespie, former Labor MP and VAD Bill sponsor Anne Levy, Susie Byrne, Elice Herraman, Michael and Karen Dowling, Julia Anaf, Matt Williams, Chris Norman, and Elliette Kirkbride.

Frances Greenwood, Jo Hayhurst, Jane Qualmann and Lainie Anderson sent their apologies but were definitely there 'in spirit'. We were very pleased that Jim Maher (Kyam Maher's father) was part of the breakfast.

Speaking in advance of this gathering, Frances Coombe stated that "South Australians now have a compassionate choice to end their life in a manner and at a time of their choosing, providing they meet the strict VAD eligibility criteria".

Ms Coombe had also noted that South Australia's VAD system was almost the same as that of Victoria, except in one important area. This is the opportunity for institutions, not only individual practitioners, to conscientiously object to VAD.

"It is important that everyone living permanently in residential aged care knows that



they have the same rights to voluntary assisted dying as anyone else living in their own home.

If you live permanently in a residential aged care unit, it is defined as your own home. In your own home you choose your own health and medical care - whether it be a cancer treatment, physiotherapy, or voluntary assisted dying. Regardless of the ethos and policy of the institution's management, permanent residents of aged care have an unhindered access to VAD.

If you are transferred to a private hospital or hospice, different rules may apply, and it is important to know the VAD policy of the hospital or hospice before you are admitted.

It is also important to understand that all public hospitals and hospices will support VAD."

Frances Coombe stated further:

"We have been pleased to see so many doctors registering their interest in supporting their patients with their end of life choices, and hope that more doctors will complete the VAD training as their patients ask for their support".

Ms Coombe emphasised that anyone with a terminal illness, and a prognosis of less than six months - or 12 months for a neurodegenerative disease - and who thinks that they may wish to request VAD, realises that they need to talk to their doctor as soon as possible. This is because the

VAD Act prohibits their doctor from mentioning VAD as an end of life option, even though it is now legal. She concluded:

"Common sense and compassion have finally prevailed over the cruelty of the predominantly religiously based opposition. Polls consistently report over 80 per cent support for VAD from people who identify as Christians, even though the leadership of the Catholic church, in particular, has maintained a strong and vocal opposition."

The online news service In Daily reported that Kym Watson, a VADSA member, living with Multiple Systems Atrophy, is grateful to now have VAD as a legal end of life choice. Kym has been a long-time VAD advocate and has worked hard to help achieve legislative success.

This article also reported that eight people had contacted SA Health for information, just prior to implementation.

Information on how to request VAD and where to find a VAD trained doctor is available through SA Health VAD Care Navigators at:

Email: Health.VADCareNavigators@sa.gov.au

Phone: 0403 087 390

SA Health Website: Voluntary Assisted Dying in South Australia | SA Health

VADSA PUBLIC MEETING

Voluntary Assisted Dying South Australia (VADSA) holds public meetings twice yearly at

The Box Factory 59 Regent St South, Adelaide

The next public meeting will be on

Sunday April 2nd 2023 at 2.15 pm

Guest speaker will be VADSA's Vice President and Policy Officer

Anne Bunning

Speaking on the topic

‘VADSA’s way forward’

Tea and coffee will be served following the meeting. Bring a friend!

Please note that the VADSA 2023 AGM will be held on Sunday November 5th at 2.15pm

Also see important information on the VADSA website: VADSA - How to access Voluntary Assisted Dying in South Australia

Reference:

In Daily Stephanie Richards ‘Huge day’: Voluntary assisted dying launches in SA - InDaily 31 January 2023

Voluntary assisted dying and dementia

Anne Bunning, VADSA Policy Officer and Vice President explains that, unlike in Australia, in Canada a person living with dementia is eligible for their VAD equivalent, Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD).

Dementia is the leading cause of death for women in Australia, and the second leading cause of death for men, after cardiovascular disease. Dementia Australia reports that, in 2022, there were approximately 450,000 Australians living with dementia. The requirement for a prognosis of less than 12 months to death for a neurodegenerative disease, as well as needing decision making

capacity at every step of the request and assessment process, means that voluntary assisted dying will not be an end of life choice for a person with dementia.

In Canada, the voluntary assisted dying equivalent is called Medical Assistance in Dying, or MAiD. MAiD has been an end of life choice for a person with dementia in Canada since MAiD commenced, in June 2016. In Canada, if your diagnosis means that ‘your natural death is reasonably foreseeable’, then you become eligible for an assisted death. Once someone has a diagnosis of dementia, natural death is reasonably foreseeable, and the person is eligible for MAiD.

VAD eligibility in Canada

In Canada, the definition of ‘reasonable’ within the context of death being ‘reasonably foreseeable’, was clarified in a constitutional court challenge by Julia Lamb, a British Columbian woman suffering from spinal muscular atrophy. After the first few years of MAiD, Ms Lamb was concerned that doctors were interpreting the ‘reasonably

foreseeable’ criteria conservatively, and that she would be ineligible for MAiD.

Ms Lamb could see that her only option would be to refuse the treatments and therapies which were giving her any quality of life. As the hearings progressed, a government witness made a written submission to the court confirming that Ms Lamb’s death would meet the ‘reasonably foreseeable’ criteria: if she withdrew her treatments, her natural death would be reasonably foreseeable. The case did not proceed further, and doctors were provided with the clarity and security they required to assess MAiD eligibility.

There is no evidence that doctors have abused this definition of ‘reasonably foreseeable’ in Canada. (see ref below).

Dementia patients in Canada can plan a MAiD death in the event that they lose capacity.

Following extensive consultation, in March 2021 Bill C-7 amended the original MAiD legislation to allow a waiver of final consent. Bill C-7 allows a person who has been assessed as eligible for MAiD, and who is concerned that due to their dementia (or any other illness) that they may lose capacity, to make an agreement with their doctor and set a date for their future MAiD procedure. The agreement is made while the person still has decision making capacity. The person can cancel the procedure at any time.

The experience from Canada is that the

combination of the ‘death is reasonably foreseeable’ eligibility criteria with the ‘waiver of final consent’ provides a safe, compassionate, and reliable end of life option for people with dementia.

Voluntary Assisted Dying Act reviews

Voluntary assisted dying is now a legal end of life choice in five of the six Australian states, and by November 2023, when VAD commences in NSW, in all states.

Each of the state VAD Acts contains a requirement to review the Act after a specified time. Reviews of the Victorian and WA VAD Acts will commence this year, 2023. South Australia’s Act is not due to be reviewed until 2027. However, it is likely that reviews and potential amendments will be similar across Australia, and likely to follow the Victorian and WA model, as did the original VAD Acts.

The question most often asked of VADSA is ‘what if I have dementia?’ And the answer is that if you no longer have decision making capacity, you are no longer eligible for VAD. To qualify for VAD you must have decision making capacity at every stage of the request process, including when the pharmacists deliver the VAD substance to your home. The pharmacists must confirm that you understand the purpose of the drug and that you still wish to proceed with an assisted death.

To be eligible for VAD, two independent doctors must have determined that you have less than six months to live, or 12 months for a neurodegenerative disease; that your request is voluntary; and that there are no further treatments acceptable to you that would relieve your suffering. All over the world, most people who have an assisted death have cancer; some may also be in the early stages of dementia. However, if their dementia has progressed and they are assessed as not having decision making capacity in relation to a discussion about voluntary assisted dying, they would become ineligible for VAD.

In 2020, there were a total of 14,500 deaths due to dementia, with more women than men dying

The World Federation of Right to Die Societies

Founded in 1980 the World Federation of Right to Die Societies is an international federation of associations that promote access to voluntary assisted dying. It holds regular international meetings on dying and death. The World Federation consists of 60 right to die organizations from 30 countries.

due to the condition (around 9,100 and 5,300 deaths, respectively). This corresponds to dementia causing 9.6% of all deaths in Australia in 2020 (12.6% for women and 6.8% for men).

Based on the Australian Government's Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW) estimates, there are 15 people living with dementia per 1,000 Australians, which increases to 84 people with dementia per 1,000 Australians aged 65 and over. Nearly two-thirds of Australians with dementia are women. For more information, see Deaths due to dementia in Australia (below).

References:

Julia Lamb 'reasonably foreseeable' clarification
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-bc-woman-challenging-reasonably-foreseeable-clause-in-maid-law/Waiver-of-final-consent>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/medical-assistance-dying.html>

Dementia

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/dementia/dementia-in-aus/contents/summary>

Deaths due to dementia in Australia

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/dementia/dementia-in-aus/contents/population-health-impacts-of-dementia/deaths-due-to-dementia>

Ask your doctor about VAD

As noted earlier, doctors are not able to initiate discussion about VAD even though it is a legal end of life choice. It is important that people ask their doctor whether, or not, they are going to be a participating provider. This could encourage doctors to complete the VAD training to assist current and future patients who may seek their help. Now that law reform has been achieved, VADSA President Frances Coombe has changed her car roof sign message. In the past it urged people to speak to their MPs about the need for law reform. Now it is the need to be proactive in speaking with your doctor.



Looking ahead: VAD issues for 2023 and beyond

Information from the Go Gentle Australia website reminds us that by the end of 2023, eligible people in all Australian states will be able to access VAD. Furthermore, Australian territories may soon follow, after the Commonwealth lifted the 25-year ban imposed under the 'Andrews' Bill.

The previous VADSA Bulletin reported on the passage of the Restoring Territory Rights Bill in the Lower House. Since then, it has passed the Upper House, as reported in VADSA's Fact Sheet 44. (This is reproduced on page 9 with full referencing available on the website version.)

It has recently been reported that the ACT Human Rights Commissioner, Tara Cheyne, stated that

DONATIONS TO VADSA

Donations may be made as a one-off gift, or a regular monthly donation.

All donations over \$2.00 are fully tax deductible. A general donation or regular or monthly donations are greatly appreciated. Your gift will work towards the alleviation of suffering. A receipt will be issued for taxation purposes. Please let us know if you do not want a receipt.

Bequests

Different wording is used for a bequest of a specific sum or the whole of an estate. The wording for a gift of a specific sum is: 'I bequeath to Voluntary Assisted Dying SA Inc. the sum of \$.....' If you wish to leave your entire estate to VADSA the wording would read: 'I give and bequeath the whole of my real and personal estate to Voluntary Assisted Dying SA Inc'.

VADSA is staffed entirely by volunteers. Since its formation in 1983 as SAVES, VADSA has worked towards law reform that enables a compassionate and humane response to unbearable and hopeless suffering and has an ongoing advocacy and educative role.

Canberrans will have access to VAD in the future, ‘with laws that could differ significantly from those in other jurisdictions.’ Instead of requiring a specific timeline, potential legislation could instead stipulate that a person was eligible if they had a prognosis indicating that they were suffering, and that death was “reasonable and predicted”.

The ACT Government has opened a consultation process to inform the development of a voluntary assisted dying model for the ACT with contributions welcome:

You and/or your organisation are invited to contribute to this consultation process. You can visit the YourSay website to read our discussion paper, access other resources, and make a submission: [YourSay.act.gov.au/vad](https://yoursay.act.gov.au/vad). The deadline for submissions is Thursday 6 April 2023.

If you live outside the ACT or are under 18, you can provide your feedback using the ‘Send us our Ideas or Submission’ section <https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/voluntary-assisted-dying-in-ACT/submission>

The Go Gentle website also provides wide-ranging information on the numbers of VAD deaths and demographic profiles to date. Of note is that more than 80 per cent of patients requesting VAD were also receiving palliative care. In common with the information from Oregon USA over more than two decades, people seeking VAD cited the inability to engage in activities that make life enjoyable, and the loss of autonomy, as the two most common reasons for seeking VAD. In Victoria and WA, bodies that oversee VAD have found that the

system is safe, and only those who met eligibility criteria were able to access VAD. However, access barriers were identified including:

- the statutory prohibition preventing Victorian doctors initiating conversations about VAD;
- Commonwealth restrictions on discussing VAD via telehealth and email;
- the requirement to show evidence of Australian citizenship or permanent residency which can cause difficulties for some people to prove their status;
- the lack of eligible doctors willing to provide VAD, and the lack of appropriate remuneration;
- lengthy, complicated administrative processes; and
- non-participation by some aged care and health-care providers.

For example, non-participants include Calvary Health Care, as stated in its Position Statement on Euthanasia, Physician Assisted Suicide and Voluntary Assisted Dying. Calvary private hospitals are located in central Adelaide, Elizabeth Vale, and North Adelaide, which includes the Mary Potter Hospice. The broad range of access difficulties can be further exacerbated for people in rural and remote areas.

Mandated reviews of VAD operations at regular intervals provide an appropriate opportunity for improvement. It is important to ensure that these are evidence-based, and there is now a growing body of published evidence to guide and inform these reviews. The next challenge is to remove current barriers to access while continuing to ensure safe systems operation.

For information on the research and literature informing the Go Gentle article see: Voluntary assisted dying will be available to more Australians this year. Here’s what to expect in 2023 - Go Gentle Australia

References

Microsoft Word
- FS 44_Territory Rights_Dec 2022.docx (nationbuilder.com)
Canberra’s voluntary assisted dying laws could differ significantly from other jurisdictions - ABC News
Voluntary Assisted Dying - Calvary Health Care (calvarycare.org.au).

VADSA Bulletin is available by email:

Please consider this option to reduce postage costs. Email: info@vadsa.org.au to receive future editions by email.

Thank you

Victorian VAD Review Board Report

Voluntary assisted dying became available in Victoria on 19th June 2019. Since then, there have been five six-monthly, and now the first annual, Victorian VAD Review Board report. Review Board Chairman, Julian Gardner AM, highlights some key points in his Foreward to the latest report (July 21-June 2022).

The total number of eligible applications under the strict criteria rose by 22 per cent on the previous year, and the number of deaths rose by 29 per cent; representing 0.58 per cent of deaths in Victoria. Julian Gardner highlighted the wide positive implications of these statistics:

These figures alone are not the measure of success of the operation of the Act in providing relief from suffering. Feedback from applicants, families, loved ones and others involved shows the benefits accrue to a far wider group. They include those who obtain comfort from the knowledge that they have an option for end of life treatment; or that they have the substance but may not use it; and for families and loved ones who witness the person's wishes fulfilled and autonomy respected.

As access to voluntary assisted dying becomes more widespread in Australia, Mr Gardner states that the Board will continue to advocate for a change in the Commonwealth Criminal Code, which currently impedes the use of telehealth in relation to VAD and creates barriers to access to care and, in some cases, imposes unreasonable travel demands.

The report revealed that 302 medical practitioners were in the portal as of 30th June 2022. General practitioners comprise 60 per cent of all practitioners, and 70 per cent of the registered practitioners trained to provide VAD in regional Victoria.

Since the commencement of the Act, 1,545 people have applied for VAD access in Victoria. The median age of applicants was 73 years, with half aged between 65-81 years. Fifty four per cent were male, and 46 per cent were female. There was a greater proportion of applicants from regional Victoria.

Applicants are generally considerably more highly educated than the wider public of the same age. While the 2021 census found that 39 per cent of people aged 55 years and older have completed year twelve or equivalent, this compares with 59 per cent of VAD applicants. The report also noted:

It is important to recognise that voluntary assisted dying is not an alternative to palliative care. This is underscored by the fact that 81 per cent of applicants for voluntary assisted dying have accessed or are being cared for by a palliative care service. Palliative care is an essential service, and the integration of palliative care options remains an important aspect of the end of life care delivery model.

Reference:

For further information read the full report: 2022-Voluntary-Assisted-Dying-Review-Board-Report-of-Operations-July-2021-June-22_FINAL.pdf

The need to remain vigilant

There is a well-known saying used by many, including by US President and 'founding father' Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), that 'the price of liberty is eternal vigilance'. This comes to mind in the context of ensuring that VAD law reform, once achieved, is never able to be undermined over time.

In his Foreward to Part 3 of Neil Francis' (Dying for choice.com) important research on Religiosity in Australia, Andrew Denton, the founder of Go Gentle Australia, reported a statement that was made by NSW Labor MLC Greg Donnelly.

VADSA membership renewals are due in February each year

We look forward to your continuing support.

When making payments to SAVES through EFT please ensure that you include full details of your name and contact details

Thank you!

This statement urged faith institutions to ignore the NSW VAD law. Citing St Thomas Aquinas' declaration that 'a human law not rooted in eternal law' is unjust, Donnelly, a devout Catholic, stated:

As institutions, you should not cooperate at all with the implementation of the provisions of the legislation that would impact you as organisations ... You must not do that, and you have an obligation not to do that. The law with regard to this is wrong.

As Denton points out, here is a lawmaker of faith, urging the setting aside of a law that had been passed by the secular institution that he was elected to serve.

The call by Greg Donnelly MLC for service providers to ignore the law is against the clearly expressed views of the electorate and a reminder that the protection granted for all from a secular state is never guaranteed.

This is despite the fact, highlighted by Neil Francis, that religion is declining in Australia. This is not only among those who are 'weakly committed', but also among the more devout. 'Only very small minorities of Australians have increased their religiosity'. As Andrew Denton reminds us:

The lesson from America is also the lesson for us: A liberal democracy, particularly a two-

party liberal democracy, is always open to being subverted by minority forces who are well-resourced, well-organised, and determined... Preserving our genuinely secular society requires vigilance and engagement.

It is important to educate the public and call out potential threats and misinformation around end of life choices. VADSA has an important long-term related educative role, clearly stated in its constitution, which includes the following objectives:

(1) To promote the best end of life care for our citizens, including high quality palliative care, the increased uptake of Advance Care Directives, and voluntary assisted dying in appropriate circumstances and (2) to educate and inform the community about end of life choices.

References:

Jefferson, T "Communicated," Richmond Enquirer, December 30, 1834.

Francis, N 'Religiosity in Australia Part 3: Religion in Politics, Rationalist Society of Australia, December 2022
Religiosity in Australia - Part 3: religion and politics (apo.org.au)

VALE Dr Rosemary Jones

Dr Rosemary (Rosie) Jones, a long-time advocate for voluntary assisted dying, died on Monday January 30th, just a day before VAD finally commenced in SA.

In 2005 Rosie was co-founder of the SA initiative Doctors for AMA Neutrality on Voluntary Euthanasia which later changed its name to Doctors for Assisted Dying Choice.

In 2008, as spokesperson for the group, Dr Jones sent a letter including 101 signatures to the Federal AMA President challenging the AMA's policy of opposition to VAD. She described this as "brutal", and stated that "a policy of neutrality is the only rational, ethical and credible line to take."

Rosie had an association with SAVES / VADSA for approximately 20 years. She will be remembered for her strength, courage, compassion, and good humour: a valued friend to all of us at VADSA.

See: <https://drs4assisteddyingchoice.org>.

Just a reminder....

VADSA public meetings are held twice-yearly at 2.15 pm on Sunday afternoons at the Box Factory 59 Regent St South, Adelaide.

These are important forums for updating members on VADSA's activities, legislative issues and relevant local, national and international events and initiatives.

Guest speakers provide further interest, as well as informal discussion over tea and coffee.

The next meeting is highlighted on top of page 3.

Make a diary note now!



Factsheet 44: Restoring Territory Rights to Voluntary Assisted Dying

(December 2022)

After a 25 year ban, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory regained the right to debate voluntary assisted dying (VAD). With the passage of the Restoring Territory Rights Bill on December 1, 2022, the Federal Parliament restored the rights of the Territories to introduce and debate VAD legislation.

- On May 25, 1995, the Chief Minister of the NT, Marshall Perron (Country Liberal Party), introduced the first legal VAD scheme in the world under the Northern Territory *Rights of the Terminally Ill Act*. Four people availed themselves of the law.
- In June 1996, Kevin Andrews, a Liberal MP in the Howard Government, announced that he would introduce a private member's Bill to amend the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act* which would effectively override the *Rights of the Terminally Ill Act (1995)*.
- The Commonwealth *Euthanasia Laws Act* ('The Andrews Bill') was subsequently passed in March 1997 (38-33 votes).
- Over subsequent years, nine Bills were introduced in the Commonwealth Parliament with the intention of granting one, or both, of the territories the ability to pass laws relating to VAD.
- On August 1, 2022, Labor Member for Canberra, Alicia Payne, and Labor Member for Solomon (NT) Luke Gosling, introduced a private member's bill, the *Restoring Territory Rights Bill*, to remove the constraint on the legislative powers of the NT and ACT Parliaments and restore territory rights. The Bill recognised that Territorians deserved the same democratic freedoms as the states to debate and legislate around complex issues such as voluntary assisted dying.
- The Restoring Territory Rights Bill amended the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* and *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978*, removing the prohibition on legalising VAD.
- After debate and a vote, the Bill passed the House of Representatives on August 3, 2022, with an overwhelming majority of 99 votes to 37.
- On December 1, 2022, a group of Labor, Coalition, Greens, and Independent Senators supported the Bill in the Senate. No count was taken on the final vote, but one taken immediately before recorded 42-23 in favour.
- The legislation does not compel territory parliaments to legislate on the issue of VAD but restores their right to do so.
- The Australian Capital Territory is set to debate a VAD law in 2023 or 2024, with a timeline of at least a year to pass any legislation. The Northern Territory Chief Minister has stated that VAD is not a priority in this term of Parliament.
- If the ACT and NT choose to legalise VAD they have the opportunity to select the best aspects of the six state laws.
- All states require a person to be domicile for 12 months before requesting VAD. However, when VAD is legal throughout Australia, there is arguably little need for such a requirement.

Voluntary Assisted Dying Partnerships

By mid- 2021 every state in Australia had passed, or will be debating, a law to give people a compassionate choice to end their suffering.

12 million Australians now live in a state where VAD is legal.

VADSA partners with organisations and individuals in Australia and overseas who work to achieve legal voluntary assisted dying. Voluntary Assisted Dying South Australia is our facebook page. The page contains current information about developments around Australia and the world.

A Peaceful End facebook page is run by Angie Miller who became a VAD campaigner after the distressing death of her father over an extended period.

Accessible Voluntary Assisted Dying facebook page provides information on VAD, with a focus on equitable access to a medically assisted death for people isolated by distance or disability.

Advocacy Groups listed below represent different interest groups who advocate for VAD law reform.

- Doctors for Assisted Dying Choice
- South Australian Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying
- Christians Supporting Choice for Voluntary Assisted Dying
- Voluntary Assisted Dying Youth Advocates
- Lawyers for Death with Dignity
- Paramedics Supporting Choices in Dying
- Accessible Voluntary Assisted Dying

Go Gentle Australia was established by Andrew Denton to support VAD law reform.

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation supports VAD.

The website DyingForChoice was established by Neil Francis, a Melbourne based VAD advocate which provides important information and counters misinformation about VAD.

The World Federation of Right to Die Societies is based in The Netherlands. Its website includes links to societies around the world working towards legalising assisted dying.

VADSA's state and Territory Partners - each state and territory has an active group supporting VAD law reform

- Dying with Dignity NSW
- Dying with Dignity Victoria
- Dying with Dignity Tasmania
- Dying with Dignity Western Australia
- Dying with Dignity Qld
- Northern Territory Voluntary Euthanasia Society
- Dying with Dignity ACT

Advance Care Directives are a valuable tool to provide guidance to medical professionals and carers on your end of life wishes. Contact Service SA on 13 23 24 for further information.

Voluntary Assisted Dying South Australia Inc. Membership Form

Print and post or join online at <https://www.vadsa.org.au>

☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal

Surname, including Mr/Mrs/Ms etc

Given Name(s)

Address

Suburb/Town & Post Code

Telephone

Email address

Year of Birth (Optional)

Membership Payment:

Annual membership is due at the end of February. Payment for two or more years is welcome, and is calculated by multiples of the annual fee – please mark accordingly

- ☐ \$30.00 Single Membership (\$15.00 concession) -----
- ☐ \$40.00 Couple Membership (\$20.00 concession) -----
- ☐ \$350.00 Life Membership Single
- ☐ \$500.00 Life Membership Couple
- ☐ Additional Donation to support the work of VADSA-----
- TOTAL -----

Payment Options:

Cheques and money orders made payable to SAVES and send with this form to:

- ☐ **VADSA Membership Officer, PO Box 2151, Kent Town SA 5071**

Or pay by Electronic Funds Transfer:

- ☐ **People's Choice Credit Union BSB 805 050 Acct number 102500039**
Voluntary Assisted Dying SA

PLEASE LODGE THIS FORM, along with EFT payment advice either via email to info@vadsa.org.au or via Australia Post

How did you hear about us? _____

Do you have an area of expertise that could be of help to VADSA? _____

Do you wish to receive the Bulletin by post or email?-----

VADSA's members support the society's primary objective which is to promote the best end of life care for our citizens, including high quality palliative care, the increased uptake of Advanced Care Directives, and voluntary assisted dying in appropriate circumstances; and to educate and inform the community about end of life choices.

VADSA IS NOT ABLE TO HELP PEOPLE END THEIR LIVES.

VADSA's Primary Objective:

To promote the best end of life care for our citizens, including high quality palliative care, the increased uptake of Advanced Care Directives, and voluntary assisted dying in appropriate circumstances; and to educate and inform the community about end of life choices.



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VADSA Bulletin is published three times a year by Voluntary Assisted Dying SA Inc (VADSA). Letters, articles and other material for possible publication are welcome and should be sent to *VADSA Bulletin Editor, PO Box 2151, Kent Town SA 5071.*

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