



April 28 Update to VADSA Supporters

VADSA Public Meeting – this Sunday May 3

Speaker: Dr Carolyn Lawlor-Smith: My experience as a VAD practitioner

Medal of the Order of Australia for service to medicine and community health

Dr Carolyn Lawlor-Smith has served South Australia as a GP for 42 years. The General Practice she founded in Happy Valley was awarded RACGP Australian General Practice of the year twice.

As a committee member of Doctors for Assisted Dying Choice she was instrumental in the passage of South Australia's Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) laws. She was one of the first doctors to be trained in VAD in South Australia and travels the state to assess patients requesting access to VAD.

'I feel privileged to be able to give people with a terminal condition the power to make a choice about their death,' Dr Lawlor-Smith says.

'The VAD team works alongside palliative care services to deliver the best outcome for patients.

VADSA Public Meeting
Experiences of a VAD Practitioner
2.15pm
Sunday May 3
Box Factory
Regent St South, Adelaide

Telehealth and VAD

We know that some of you wrote to Federal AG Michelle Rowland recently asking her to take action to amend the Commonwealth Criminal Code (CCC) to allow telehealth to be used for VAD consultations. Now that all states and the ACT have a VAD law, providing over 70 safeguards to ensure that vulnerable people are protected, the CCC law needs to be amended.

We now need you to write to Senators from South Australia requesting their support for the same amendment.

The ban is a particular disadvantage for people living in regional areas who already have less access to health and medical services due to their location. The need to travel to three different VAD consultations when you are terminally ill means that people do not request VAD or die before they can get to their consultations. This has been highlighted in an [ABC news story](#) today, when a woman in Victoria died during the assessment process, enduring suffering that could have been avoided if telehealth had been available to her.

South Australia has 12 Senators, five Liberal Party, five from the ALP, two from the Greens.

**Liberal Party**

Senator Alex Antic
Senator Leah Blyth
Senator Kerryne Liddle
Senator Andrew McLachlan CSC
Senator the Hon Anne Ruston

Australian Labor Party

Senator the Hon Don Farrell
Senator Karen Grogan
Senator Marielle Smith
Senator Charlotte Walker
Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Australian Greens

Senator Sarah Hanson-Young
Senator Barbara Pocock

Contact details for each of our 12 South Australian Senators can be found through this [link](#).

VADSA Bulletin

The latest issue of the VADSA Bulletin is available [here](#).