



**June 6, 2026**

## **Update to VADSA supporters**

We are delighted to update you with three items: the new VADSA website, the 12<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Report on VAD in South Australia and the citizen jury in the ACT to consider loss of decision making capacity after being assessed as eligible for VAD.

### **New VADSA Website**

Our **VADSA website** has been updated. We have a new format, with some new pages. We hope the revised format is easier to navigate and we will be able to update you as we approach the scheduled review of the South Australian VAD Act in 2027. (Note that your search engine, eg google, may not have updated yet and the pages showing may not be from the new website; if you open the website itself, you find the new pages.) We are happy to receive feedback and suggestions for the website on [info@vadsa.org.au](mailto:info@vadsa.org.au).

### **VAD Review Board 12<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Report**

**SA VAD Review Board has published its 12<sup>th</sup> quarterly report** on the implementation of VAD in South Australia. Highlights include

- Three more doctors have completed the VAD training, meaning there are now 86 VAD trained medical practitioners in SA (there are over 8000 registered medical practitioners in SA)
- There was a 13% decrease in the number of first requests for VAD in the quarter
- After receiving a VAD Permit, the median number of days to the person dying following administration of the VAD substance was 11, with a range of 0 to 520 days
- 81 people died after receiving a VAD Permit, 23 without administering the VAD substance
- In the almost three years since VAD commenced in SA (January 3, 2023 to December 31, 2025) 555 people have died using the VAD substance, either through self or practitioner administration; an additional 216 people who had a VAD Permit died without using the VAD substance
- In the first three years, 61% of deaths of people with a VAD Permit were from self administration, 14% from practitioner administration and 25% died without administration of the VAD substance
- Throughout the three years, it is consistently noted that 80% of people requesting VAD are in a palliative care program, half the people die at home and approximately 75% have cancer.

Further details are available from the SA VAD Review Board [Quarterly Report](#) or [Factsheet 50](#) on the VADSA website.

### **ACT Citizen Jury**

**The ACT Government has announced that a citizen jury** will be established to examine how the community wishes a person's eligibility for VAD to be managed if the person loses



decision making capacity after they have been assessed as eligible for VAD. Under current legislation - in every state as well as the ACT - a person must have decision making capacity at every stage of the process. This includes when the pharmacists deliver the VAD medication or when the physician is ready to administer the medication.

The citizens' jury will provide recommendations to the ACT Government on how to establish a substitute decision making process with strong safeguards, enabling people who have expressed a clear wish to access voluntary assisted dying at the end of their lives to have their decision upheld.

In establishing the Citizen Jury ACT **Chief Minister Andrew Barr** said

“By bringing together a citizens’ jury, alongside clinical and legal expertise, we are ensuring that any future reforms are shaped by the values, experiences and expectations of our community.

“We are determined to approach this complex issue thoughtfully and carefully, grounded in evidence, guided by human rights, and informed by those it directly affects.”

**Minister for Health, Hon Rachel Stephen-Smith** said

“We know there is ongoing community interest in the question of access to voluntary assisted dying for people who lose capacity at the end of their life. No other Australian jurisdiction has yet acted on this issue and our priority is to get this right.

“Any reform must have clear social license and appropriate safeguards. It must be grounded in strong clinical governance and engagement with experts, to ensure it is safe, ethical, and consistent with human rights and community expectations.”

**Attorney General Tara Cheyne**, who introduced the Bill, commented that “undertaking a careful and consultative approach now means that any future policy is informed, considered and reflects our community’s values.”

The citizen jury model could be used to support an evidence based debate on other VAD matters such as advance requests.

Full statement available [here](#).