

## Looking ahead: 2021

Welcome to the first edition of this bulletin under the new Voluntary Assisted Dying South Australia (VADSA) masthead. The material sent to members for the 2020 AGM included a motion to change the society's name from SAVES to VADSA. This was seen to reflect a more inclusive terminology than that of four decades ago when the society was formed. Thirty nine members voted by post and 18 by email; providing a quorum to proceed with the name change. All responses supported the change, except for one where a member suggested an alternative name.

The VADSA committee for 2021 comprises:

- President: Frances Coombe
- Vice-Presidents: Julia Anaf, Kip Fuller
- Treasurer: Jo Hayhurst
- Secretary and Public Officer: Frances Greenwood (role to be temporarily undertaken by Julia Anaf)
- Membership Officer: Elice Herraman

The committee gives special thanks and recognition to president Frances Coombe, who has steered the society and worked tirelessly in that role now for 20 years! It also gives thanks and appreciation to Anne Bunning, VADSA's Policy Adviser, for all her very hard work and advice associated with campaign matters. One large task was updating the content and moving the website to one hosted by Nationbuilder. This technology platform used for political campaigns will enable the society to gain supporters and collect donations when they register on our website.

Following advice of an impending VAD Bill being debated in 2021, VADSA members joined those from all the different law reform support groups on Parliament House steps to advocate for law reform.

Each group attended on a different parliamentary sitting day and engaged with interested passers-by.

Many members of the public wrote letters to their MPs on the spot; stating their reasons for supporting law reform. The letters were taken directly into Parliament House for distribution to the particular MPs. This campaign strategy arose in response to common questions from members of the public on our different awareness / advocacy days, such as 'how can I help?' or 'where do I sign?' Letters allow for greater nuance than petitions.

## Current campaign status and focus

The *Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2020* was tabled in both chambers of the South Australian Parliament on Wednesday December 2nd 2020 by Hon Kyam Maher MLC, in the Legislative Council, and Hon Susan Close MP in the House of Assembly. It is the 16th Bill introduced in SA Parliament since 1995 and is modelled on Victoria's *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act (2017)*.

The Bill is co-sponsored in the Upper House by the Hon Mark Parnell, MLC (Greens), who has supported earlier Bills; including the *Consent to Medical Treatment and Palliative Care (End of Life Arrangements) Amendment Bill 2010* which he jointly sponsored with Hon Steph Key (former Labor MP) in the House of Assembly.

Frances Coombe welcomed this legislative progress stating:

*Now that one in three Australians living in the states either side of South Australia will have access to voluntary assisted dying, there is no longer any reason why MPs in South Australia can be reluctant to support similar legislation here.*

Following the Second Reading speeches, which explained the VAD criteria and how the Bill would operate, debate was adjourned until February 2021 when Parliament was due to resume. Debate is due to be conducted in the first half of the year and will

hopefully result in a turning point for compassion and choice. Safeguards in the Bill include that each person:

- must be assessed by two different doctors;
- needs to have a disease, illness or condition which is incurable and expected to cause death within six months, or 12 months for a neurodegenerative disease;
- needs to request assistance to die on three separate occasions;
- needs to have their request witnessed by two witnesses;
- needs to be an Australian citizen, over 18 years, and resident in South Australia for 12 months;
- must wait nine days between the first and last request;
- must have decision making capacity, and be referred to a psychiatrist if there is any doubt; and
- neither mental illness nor disability are a criteria for voluntary assisted dying.

### Take action to support the Bill NOW!

While VADSA's primary aim is law reform, this is only one aspect of important changes that are needed for improving the full scope of end-of-life management and care. Please contact your own **State MP, and all Upper House (MLC) members immediately** by either telephone, letter, or email to seek their support for the Bill. As MLCs represent all constituents they also need to know your views.

When contacting all MPs, it is important to also stress the critical need for greater funding and equitable access for palliative care, and wider promotion of Advance Care Directives which clarify patients' wishes for their families, carers, and health professionals. Responses for improving end-of-life care must be multi-faceted to reflect the different needs of the population.

Members who use the Facebook platform are also encouraged to follow VADSA and engage with the site.

We now also have a twitter account under the handle 'vadsaorg' for members who use that platform.

## The ANMF supports law reform

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) has been actively involved in the VAD debate, with the overwhelming support of the majority of its members for over five years. Their position statement on VAD (point 14) emphasises the need for improved palliative care services; but states that when the person's suffering is still unbearable:

### 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 and 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 South Australia 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 South Australia Inc'.***

***VADSA is staffed entirely by volunteers. Since its formation in 1983, VADSA (formerly SAVES) has worked towards law reform that enables a compassionate and humane response to unbearable and hopeless suffering. The society is totally reliant on membership fees, donations, and bequests.***

***Donations can be made by cheque, or via the VADSA website at <https://www.vadsa.org.au/donate>***

***Thank you!***

## VADSA PUBLIC MEETING SUNDAY APRIL 11TH 2021

VADSA holds public meetings twice yearly at the Box Factory, 59 Regent St south, Adelaide on Sundays at 2.15pm. Guest speaker for the April 11th meeting will be VADSA's policy adviser,

### Anne Bunning

Anne will speak on the topic:

#### **“Voluntary Assisted Dying in South Australia: Making 2021 The Year”**

The meeting will be conducted according to COVID 19 protocols using social distancing, and QR code and hard copy sign-in facilities.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide light refreshments at this meeting.

**VADSA's 2021 AGM will be held on Sunday 14th November at 2.15 pm.**

*... a competent adult shall have the right to choose to die at a time and in a manner acceptable to them and shall not be compelled to suffer beyond their wishes.*

On September 23rd 2020, South Australian ANMF representatives, together with Susie Byrne from SA Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying and VADSA representatives, met on the steps of Parliament House to advocate for the impending Bill. They were met by several MPs who showed their support. On the 25th November 2020 the ANMF placed a full page advertisement in *The Advertiser* calling for law reform. As a trigger for much wider discussion, the advertisement stated:

*...Still, terminally ill people in South Australia are forced to endure nightmarish, drawn-out deaths, despite their pleas, and without a legal and humane option to end their suffering. Often the terminally ill, out of sheer desperation, take it upon themselves to end their lives, with often horrific results. Loved ones too are left to suffer, forced to watch a terminally ill mother or father fade away in excruciating pain. Many surviving family members are traumatised by this terrible, completely avoidable ordeal. The impact on nurses and carers at the bedside of the terminally ill is all too raw. We are the ones who hear their cries for an end to the suffering,*

*powerless to act, heartbreaking as it is to witness. Our great palliative care can only do so much - it is NOT the solution. Sadly it cannot deal with everyone's pain.*

#### **Reference**

ANMF (SA) Position statement on voluntary assisted dying [https://anmf.org.au/documents/policies/PS\\_Assisted\\_Dying.pdf](https://anmf.org.au/documents/policies/PS_Assisted_Dying.pdf)

### **‘A Peaceful End’**

‘A Peaceful End’ is the name of a Facebook page run by Angie Miller. Angie's father, Dusty Miller, established the well-known Birdsville Bakery, and Angie became a campaigner for VAD after he experienced a protracted and distressing death. She was very active in the successful WA campaign in 2019, and since moving to SA has engaged in a range of initiatives to support law reform in this state.

Angie has presented her father's story and advocated for law reform at community fora in several metropolitan and regional venues. These include Victor Harbor, Seaford, Mt Barker, Mt Gambier, Port Augusta, Waikerie and Berri. She is accompanied by VADSA's policy adviser Anne Bunning, and on occasion other representatives from VADSA, and Susie Byrne from *South*

*Australian Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying.*  
There has been keen interest from those attending who often share their own harrowing personal stories, and subsequently contact their MPs.

As reported in the Victor Harbor Times on 17th Dec 2020, Angie stated:

*I do not want South Australian's to be left out of this basic human right. I ask our politicians to look at the evidence coming from other jurisdictions proving that VAD is a safe alternative to suffering. I am firm in the belief that a no to VAD is most certainly a yes to harm.*

Please follow and support Angie's page: *A Peaceful End* on Facebook.

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## Australian state and territory news

The *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act* passed by the Victorian parliament in 2017 is now in its second year of operation. In June 2020 the Independent Review Board report confirmed that the law is operating as intended. Of the 348 people assessed for VAD, 231 VAD permits were issued, and 124 people proceeded to use the approved medications. This represented only 0.29% of all deaths in Victoria over the year; a tiny proportion.

Western Australia's historic VAD law is due to commence on 1st July following an 18-month implementation period to allow the state's health system and other bureaucracies to establish the required processes and systems.

Tasmania appears to become the third state to legalise VAD after parliament backed a Bill put forward by Independent MLC Mike Gaffney which received unanimous support in the Upper House on 10th November last year. It became the first

House of Parliament globally to endorse a VAD bill unopposed. The Lower House also strongly backed the legislation, voting 17 to seven to send it to a third reading, which is the furthest any VAD bill has reached in the Tasmanian parliament.

The Queensland government is committed to introducing a VAD bill by mid-2021 after making VAD a central part of its re-election campaign. However, the Queensland Law Reform Commission states that significant work is still required to prepare the community and parliament for what will be an intense debate. VAD has never before been debated in the Queensland Parliament.

Evidence from the National Coronial Information System detailed more than 80 Queenslanders with terminal or debilitating physical conditions who took their own lives each year in the absence of a VAD law. A petition launched by Tanya Battel, who is living with terminal breast cancer, urges MPs to act quickly. It had recorded over 75K signatures by the end of January.

In NSW, Greens MP Alex Greenwich has announced plans to introduce a Private Member's Bill in 2021, and seeks co-sponsorship by MPs from the major parties. *Dying With Dignity* NSW has created a petition urging members of the NSW Parliament to work together to pass the law in 2021. The online petition ([dwdnsw.org.au/petition](http://dwdnsw.org.au/petition).) features 47 year old Scott Riddle who is living with stage four bowel cancer who states that:

*There's a huge amount of fear associated with having a terminal diagnosis. You just don't know what's going to happen. There's just all these unknowns and I feel like one of those unknowns shouldn't be the risk of a really awful, extended, agonising death. It seems completely unnecessary.*

The state's most recent attempt to legalise VAD in 2017 failed to pass the Upper House by just one vote. There is pressure mounting to introduce new legislation as 76 per cent of Coalition voters support law change. However, Premier Gladys Berejiklian has ruled out significant social reform in the life of the current parliament.

Advocates in the Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory have vowed to continue fighting

### VADSA Bulletin is available by email

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**Thank you.**

for the right to debate VAD after the world's first VAD Bill, passed in 1995, was overturned in 1996 by the Federal Government's 'Andrews Bill' which stripped the Territories of the right to make their own laws on VAD. A Change.Org petition has been raised to urge the Commonwealth Government to restore Territories' rights.

Some Northern Territory politicians are hopeful that Liberal MP Kevin Andrews' departure from federal politics may help the NT and ACT claw back the ability to make their own VAD laws. Former chief minister, Marshall Perron, who introduced the bill to legalise VAD in the NT, is not convinced that Mr Andrews' preselection loss would lead to immediate change. He stated "We have still got a battle on our hands". However, ultimately:

*This issue is about democracy, it's not about voluntary euthanasia at all. The question is why should an Australian lose their democratic rights simply because they choose to live in the ACT or the NT.*

As recently argued in the Canberra Times:

*At the heart of the issue is not whether or not voluntary assisted dying should be legal, but who should make that decision. The ACT is a democracy, with a proportionately elected Legislative Assembly which closely represents the vote share each candidate and party receives. It is responsible for managing its own budget of \$5.9 billion annually, sits as an equal partner in the new national cabinet set up during the COVID-19 crisis, and in almost all cases has the same powers and responsibilities as a state.*

*The ban on legislating for voluntary assisted dying is an oddity not based on any consistent principle, and it insults the intelligence of the ACT electorate - which is made up of some of the most politically engaged and passionate people in Australia.*

Judy Dent, President NT Voluntary Euthanasia Society, and widow of Bob Dent who was the first person in the NT to avail himself of the law in September 1996 said:

*I'm hoping that when more of the states have passed their own legislation, they will say it is*

*not right to treat the citizens of the ACT and the NT as second-class citizens... They should restore our rights. Not restore the legislation, but restore our rights to ask for such legislation.*

Council on the Ageing (COTA) NT chief executive, Sue Shearer, claimed that Mr Andrews interfered with the democratic process of a Territory when overturning the Rights of the Terminally Ill Act 1995 (NT). She said "We really value our democracy and our independence and he just totally ignored that for the ACT and the NT"... "On behalf of Territorians, I'm thrilled that Mr Andrews can no longer interfere with the democratic process". A petition to repeal section 50A of the Northern Territory (Self Government) Act 1978 to allow the NT to enact laws dealing with voluntary assisted dying has been launched by COTA NT:

#### References

- Roberts, L 'NT leaders hope Kevin Andrews' preselection loss will reignite euthanasia debate' ABC Radio Darwin 2nd February 2021
- Gazzola, K 'Catch ya later mate': Northern Territory Chief Minister farewells Kevin Andrews amid political demise' Nine News.com 1st Feb 2021
- Cota CEO Sue Shearer cited in ntnews.com.au/ Feb 2nd 2021
- Oquist, B 'Canberra's euthanasia insult weakens democracy for all', Canberra Times, 20 Feb 2021
- Roberts, L 'The NT pioneered voluntary euthanasia before the law was overruled. Now there is a campaign to restore it' ABC News 10 Jan 2021

### **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 euthanasia. It holds regular international meetings on dying and death. The World Federation consists of 45 right to die organizations.***

## International news

### United Kingdom

The push for VAD law reform in the UK is gaining momentum, with 84 per cent supporting the choice. Research shows that 300 suicides in England each year involve a person with a terminal illness. On 12th January 2021 the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP confirmed the need for more data on suicides of terminally ill people under the UK's current laws on VAD. He said that he would consider working with coroners from across the country and with the Office for National Statistics.

This is because government has a role to play in gathering such data and acknowledging the changing views on VAD in Parliament, in the medical profession, and around the world. Every eight days someone from the UK travels to Switzerland for help to die; but ten times as many dying people are ending their lives at home.

A recent survey by the British Medical Association (BMA) canvassed members views on whether the law should permit doctors to prescribe drugs for patients to end their lives. A majority want the BMA to end its policy of opposition to VAD, with 40 per cent seeking a supportive position and 21 per cent a neutral stance. Only 47 per cent of members of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) wish to maintain an opposing stance; down from 77 per cent in 2013.

### **VADSA membership renewals are due in February each year**

***We look forward to your continuing support.***

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

***Thank you!***

Dr Stephen Duckworth who lives with a severe disability argues:

*I have been an electric wheelchair user for 40 years and enjoyed the choice and control over my life that disability activists campaigned for, year after year. Yet some of those activists, who have considerable influence, are now arguing that I should be denied that choice and control at one of life's most important events, the dying process.*

*I am not terminally ill, but one day I may be. I am not scared to die but I want choice and control over how I manage that dying process. While over 206 million people live in places with some form of legislation that enables assistance to die, it is not an option in this country.*

*The UK upholds a blanket ban on assisted dying, despite 84 per cent of the public supporting this option being made available for terminally ill Brits. Support for this type of law is similarly high among disabled people. I am proudly among that number and believe that a safe, compassionate assisted dying law here is long overdue.*

### **References**

Duckworth, S 'As a severely disabled person, I know how vital it is the UK law on assisted dying is changed' The Independent, 5th Feb 2021 <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/disability-assisted-dying-uk-law-b1797156.html>  
-Dignity in Dying UK website <https://www.dignityindying.org.uk/>  
-Dying with Dignity NSW Summer 2020/2021 Newsletter

### **Ireland**

In October 2020 MPs voted to send the *Dignity in Dying* Bill to committee stage in the Irish Parliament. Most parties stated that they would allow a conscience vote. There is a high level of support for VAD across the population but strong opposition from the Catholic Church, the medical establishment, and some parts of the disability sector. Some are calling for the issue be put to a referendum which is how both marriage equality and abortion were decided.

### **Germany**

Germany's MPs have proposed legislation

that would allow VAD for terminally ill adults following counselling. The country's highest court ruled in 2020 stated that an existing law that bans VAD services breached the constitution. Free Democrats Party member Katrin Helling-Plahr stated "Everyone who is able to make decisions for themselves should also be able to decide when they want to die."

#### Reference

German lawmakers propose new law on assisted suicide  
Reuters, Jan 29, 2021

### Portugal

On January 29th 2021 the Portuguese parliament approved the decriminalisation of VAD. The so-called [Medically Assisted Death](#) bill is the result of the merger of five other bills previously passed by parliament in 2020. A week earlier, the bill was already approved in the Committee on Constitutional Affairs.

The draft law provides that a person can request VAD under a range of prescribed circumstances. The Bill will now go to the President of the Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa. A moderate conservative, de Sousa was recently re-elected with a landslide. While he personally opposes VAD he claims that this will not influence his decision; but he could still demand further parliamentary or judicial review. If he supports the Bill Portugal will be the fourth European country with a VAD law.

#### Reference

World Federation of Right to Die Societies website <https://wfrtds.org/portugese-parliament-approved-euthanasia-law/>

### Spain

The World Federation of Right to Die Societies advises that on Thursday December 17th 2020, a bill regulating the right to a dignified death under certain circumstances passed the first reading in the lower house of Spanish Parliament (198-138 with two abstentions). The Bill will now go to the Senate, and if no amendments are introduced, it could go into effect in early 2021.

### Canada

On February 10th the Canadian Senate voted to extend access to Canada's assisted dying regime to allow individuals who fear losing mental capacity to make advance requests for medical help to end their lives. The amendment [to Bill C-7] was approved 47-28, with eight abstentions.

Senator Pamela Wallin who proposed the amendment, argued that the law currently traps Canadians in "a perverse diagnosis lottery." Someone diagnosed with incurable cancer can receive an assisted death, but someone with Alzheimer's disease or other cognitive-impairing conditions may have already lost the mental competence to consent by the time of diagnosis.

Senator Wallin said that allowing people the chance to make written advance requests "would give those who are fearful of losing their conscious capacity the certainty that they can access medical assistance in dying before they reach a place where consent may not be possible."

Bill C-7 would expand assisted dying to people whose natural death is not reasonably foreseeable. It would establish more relaxed eligibility rules for those who are near death, including a limited form of advance request, and more stringent rules for those who are not.

#### Reference

The Canadian Press Feb 10th 2021

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## Unconditional conscientious objection to VAD

In an article published in April 2020, Dr Andrew McGee reflects on what, if any, limitations or conditions should be imposed on a practitioner's right to object to participate in any aspect of VAD.

While in Victoria conscientious objection is unconditional, in Western Australia an objector will need to provide a patient with some basic information (yet to be determined prior to implementation in July 2021).

Some objectors argue that any obligation to inform a patient about potentially supportive practitioners, or refer them on, is a form of 'forced complicity'; undermining their clearly held objection.

However, McGee notes that in VAD and other related debates, the importance of autonomy is raised as a critical issue. Therefore, prohibiting VAD based on personal conscience holds everyone hostage to just one view; while permitting VAD does not. Instead it allows each person to act on the basis of her or his own conscience.

McGee argues further that the decision to *legalise* VAD cannot however be completely unconditional and based only on personal conscience. This is because the state has an interest in, and obligation to protect potentially vulnerable people from accessing VAD (eg those possibly under coercion). He makes the case that:

*The reasonableness of any such disagreement about VAD requires that I respect my patients' rights to act on their own beliefs, which in turn entails an obligation adequately to inform my patients to enable them to act on their own conscience.*

*An obligation to inform strikes the appropriate balance between the respective rights of practitioner and patient, especially since, as others have noted, practitioners have role obligations to provide a service that is legal.*

An article in the Journal of Medical Ethics reports that doctors who provide VAD due to their 'active, moral and purposeful support for the law' are known as conscientious participants. Unlike conscientious objection, conscientious participation has received little attention in the bioethics literature. This is important because an individual's access to VAD relies on a sufficient number of conscientious participants in jurisdictions where VAD is permitted.

The research found that some Victorian doctors with no in-principle opposition towards legalising VAD, are 'orientating themselves towards the law'; employing bioethical principles to justify their position. However they struggle to reconcile that approach with the broader medical profession's opposition.

#### **References**

- Open access article: McGee, 2020, A Voluntary assisted dying: should conscientious objection be unconditional? Pharmacy Practice and Research, <https://doi.org/10.1002/jppr.1653>
- Rutherford, J (2020) Conscientious participants and the ethical dimensions of physician support for legalised voluntary assisted dying, Journal of Medical Ethics <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/medethics-2020-106702>

***Please note VADSA new bank account details for membership renewals and donations which is also recorded in the membership form on page 11:***

***People's Choice Credit Union***

***Acct number 102 500 039***

***BSB 805 050***

***Voluntary Assisted Dying South Australia Inc***



# End of Life Choice



## Voluntary assisted dying *and* better resourced palliative care

\*Even the best of palliative care can not relieve all suffering. The 4 parliamentary inquiry committees in South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland recognised this reality.

\*They also recognised that any voluntary assisted dying law has to work hand-in-hand with increased resources for palliative care.

\*In overseas jurisdictions where voluntary assisted dying is available the palliative care sector has further advanced.

\*Increased funding for palliative care has been committed by the Victorian and Western Australia governments alongside their voluntary assisted dying legislation.

\*Voluntary Assisted Dying and Palliative Care both share:

- compassion for suffering
- respect for human agency and autonomy
- support for dignity in death

### References:

\*[https://www.gogentleaustralia.org.au/voluntary\\_assisted\\_dying\\_is\\_also\\_about\\_better\\_palliative\\_care](https://www.gogentleaustralia.org.au/voluntary_assisted_dying_is_also_about_better_palliative_care)

\*<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2019/10/Massive-boost-for-palliative-care-services-across-Western-Australia.aspx>

\*[https://palliativecare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/dlm\\_uploads/2018/12/Experience-internationally-of-the-legalisation-of-assisted-dying-on-the-palliative-care-sector-APEX-FINAL.pdf](https://palliativecare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2018/12/Experience-internationally-of-the-legalisation-of-assisted-dying-on-the-palliative-care-sector-APEX-FINAL.pdf)

**SAVES**

South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society

*saves.asn.au*



*Compassion for suffering  
The freedom to choose  
Add your voice to the call*



SAVES was established in 1983 to campaign for legal, medically assisted voluntary euthanasia. The aim is to end suffering by providing choice in dying. SAVES works in the community and with Members of Parliament to achieve law reform.

**SAVE-YA Syndicated Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Youth Advocates**

Facebook: Support SAVE-YA Law Reform

A national youth lobby group which aims to provide a youth voice in support of legalising voluntary euthanasia in all States and Territories. Members between ages 18 and 35 are encouraged to join, make contact with their local MP and inform them of their support for voluntary euthanasia law reform.



**Christians Supporting Choice For Voluntary Assisted Dying** [christiansforvad.org.au](http://christiansforvad.org.au)

We are Christians who believe that, as a demonstration of love and compassion, those with a terminal or hopeless illness should have the option of a pain-free, peaceful and dignified death with legal voluntary assisted dying / voluntary euthanasia. This is strongly supported by the majority of Australian Christians.



**South Australian Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying**

facebook: SA Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying

We are a group of passionate nurses who believe in our patient's right to choose the end of life care they wish. The group provides a forum for the nursing voice and perspective on legalising voluntary euthanasia and other patient choices in end of life care.



**MY BODY MY Choice-VE**

[facebook.com/pages/MY-BODY-MY-Choice-VE](https://facebook.com/pages/MY-BODY-MY-Choice-VE)

MBMC provides a voice for people with disability in the VE reform debate. MBMC represents the interests of people with disabilities who wish to exercise choice in all aspects of their life, including choice at the end of life, with the view that choice and control are a fundamental human right for everyone.

MBMC argues that people with disabilities know how it feels to lose personal autonomy through their ongoing fight for self-determination, independent living and disability rights.

MBMC believes that people with disabilities, who have struggled to control their own lives and bodies, must be allowed to maintain control and autonomy throughout their life, especially at its end.



**Doctors for Assisted Dying Choice**

[drs4assisteddyingchoice.org](http://drs4assisteddyingchoice.org)



We are a national organisation of Australian medical practitioners, both current and retired, who are committed to having a legal choice of providing information and assistance to rational adults, who, for reasons of no realistic chance of cure or relief from intolerable symptoms, would like to gently end their lives.

Assistance may be by doctor provision of medication for the patient to consume, or by doctor-administration.

*Respecting rational patient end-of-life choices*

**Lawyers for Death with Dignity**

[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/1062e1\\_dd077d6dd79648cbaec58200361f054a.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/1062e1_dd077d6dd79648cbaec58200361f054a.pdf)

Lawyers for Death with Dignity acknowledges the need for people with profound suffering to have the legal choice for a medically assisted and dignified death.



The current law says suicide is not illegal, but assisting suicide is. People in a terminal state may have profound, unbearable suffering and be in the undignified position of being unable to end their life without assistance.

Advances in medicine have improved life expectancy, but South Australian law has not changed to reflect the often forgotten deterioration in quality of life that a longer life expectancy may bring.

**Paramedics Supporting Choices in Dying**

facebook: Paramedics Supporting Choices in Dying



Paramedics Supporting Choices in Dying is an advocacy group promoting the rights of people to make decisions regarding their end of life wishes.

To go without pain, without trauma, without breaking the law, without endangering others and without suffering. To go gently, peacefully and with dignity.

We support good palliative care, encourage the use of Advance Care Directives and advocate for law reform to legalise the choice for voluntary euthanasia and voluntary assisted dying.

# 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](mailto: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 a change in the law, so that in appropriate circumstances and with defined safeguards, death may be brought about as an option of last resort in medical practice. These circumstances include the free and informed request of the patient and the free exercise of professional medical judgement and conscience of the doctor. VADSA IS NOT ABLE TO HELP PEOPLE END THEIR LIVES.

## VADSA's Primary Objective:

A change to the law in South Australia so that in appropriate circumstances, and with defined safeguards, death may be brought about as an option of last resort in medical practice. These circumstances include the free and informed request of the patient and the free exercise of professional medical judgment and conscience of the doctor.



### Committee:

#### President

Frances Coombe

#### Vice Presidents

Julia Anaf

Kip Fuller

#### Hon. Secretary / Minutes Secretary

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