



Voluntary assisted dying

Acknowledgement of Country

NSW Australia Eligibility

- Patients
- Practitioners

NSW Process

Northern NSW Model of Care

VAD in Northern New South Wales
Australia

Suzie Kuper

Voluntary Assisted Dying Project Manager

Suzanne.kuper@health.nsw.gov.au

+61472727286

Acknowledgement of Country



I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Bundjalung lands and waters where I work and live.

I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians' living culture, their connection to country and their contribution to the life of this region.

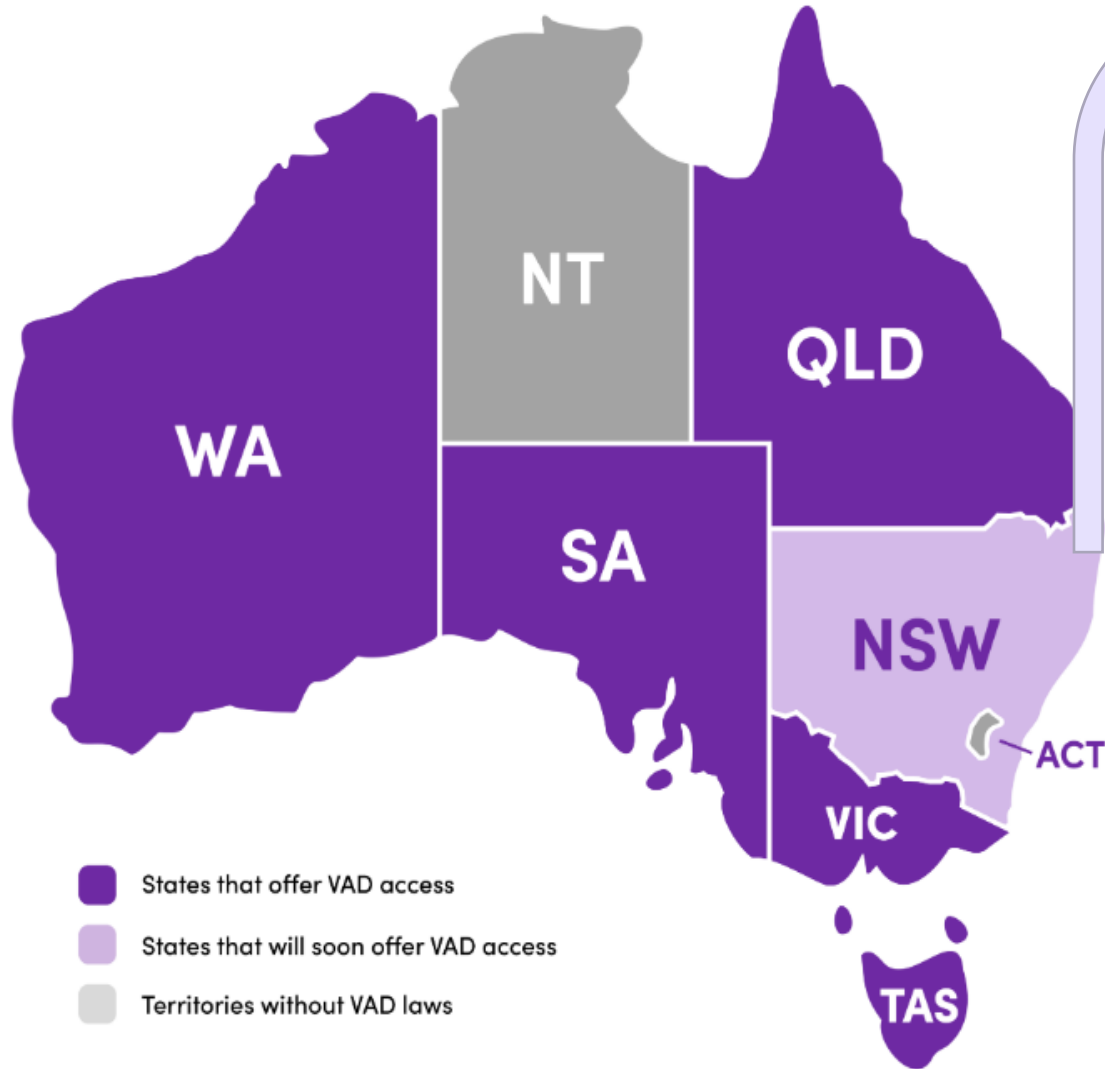
I pay my respects to the Ancestors and Elders of the region, and to all Aboriginal people past, present and future

I would like to extend that respect to other Aboriginal people and colleagues present today.

I acknowledge those for whom discussions on death and dying are particularly sensitive, and respect that not everyone will wish to participate in the development of voluntary assisted dying services worldwide



VAD in Australia



15 New South Wales Local Health Districts



Who is eligible to access voluntary assisted dying in NSW from 28th November 2023?

In order to be eligible to access voluntary assisted dying, a person must:

- be an adult, who is an Australian citizen, a permanent resident of Australia, or has been a resident in Australia for at least three continuous years
- have been living in NSW for at least 12 months
- have decision-making capacity in relation to voluntary assisted dying and be acting voluntarily without pressure or duress
- have at least one disease, illness or medical condition that is advanced, progressive and:
 - will, on the balance of probabilities, cause their death within six months (or within 12 months for neurodegenerative diseases like motor neurone disease), and
 - is causing the person suffering that cannot be relieved in a way the person considers tolerable
- have the ability to make and communicate requests and decisions about voluntary assisted dying throughout the formal request process.



Who is eligible to provide voluntary assisted dying services in NSW?

A medical practitioner is eligible to act as a coordinating or consulting practitioner if they:

- hold specialist registration, or hold general registration and have practised the medical profession for at least 10 years as the holder of general registration
- have completed the approved training
- meet any other requirements prescribed by regulations
- are not a family member of the patient
- do not know or believe that they will benefit financially or materially from the death of the patient, beyond reasonable fees incurred as a practitioner.

A health practitioner is eligible to act as an administering practitioner if they are:

- a medical practitioner who holds specialist registration
- a medical practitioner who holds general registration and has practiced the medical profession for at least 5 years.
- a medical practitioner who is an overseas-trained specialist who holds limited registration or provisional registration
- a nurse practitioner.

**Practitioner involvement is
opt-in**

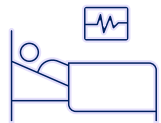
Outline of voluntary assisted dying process in NSW



Board



Formal submissions must be supplied by practitioners to the Board throughout process



Patient makes first request



Coordinating Practitioner undertakes first assessment



Consulting Practitioner undertakes consulting assessment



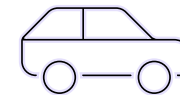
Written declaration, final request & final review



Substance authorisation issued by **Board**



Coordinating Practitioner prescribes substance



Authorised Supplier supplies approved substance



Substance can be taken at home, aged care facility, hospital etc

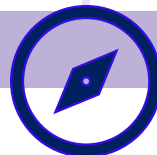


Substance can be self-administered or by an **Adminstrating Practitioner**



Unused substance disposed by **Authorised Disposer**

Care Navigator Service



Provides support and information to patients, practitioners and community throughout process

Northern NSW Model of Care

All eligible people in NNSW LHD will have access to compassionate person centred model of care for VAD that is safe and supportive for patients, families and staff

- Partnership Model with the NSW State VAD Support Service
- Practice development approach and principles: person- centredness, effective workplace culture, collaboration, inclusion, participation, work-based learning, development and use of evidence in practice, evaluation and creativity
- Research Project: ‘Clinician perspectives on voluntary assisted dying and willingness to be involved: a multi-site, cross-sectional survey during implementation in NSW, Australia’
- Challenges: Federal; law & telehealth. State; legislative variations, funding models, integration with palliative care and conscientious objection. Local; Queensland border, resource and capacity.
- Gaps: psycho-social & pastoral care



Questions?

