

Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Conference

Saturday 29 October 2022

Register now:
health.qld.gov.au/vad





Acknowledgment of Country

Queensland Health acknowledges the Traditional and Cultural Custodians of the lands, waters, and seas across Queensland, pay our respects to Elders past and present, and recognise the role of current and emerging leaders in shaping a better health system. We recognise the First Nations peoples in Queensland are both Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and support the cultural knowledge, determination, and commitment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in caring for the health and wellbeing of our peoples for millennia.

Keynote speaker

Andrew Denton



Andrew Denton is an award-winning writer, performer and producer. His TV programs include *The Money or the Gun*, *Enough Rope*, *CNNNN (The Chaser)*, and *The Gruen Transfer*.

In 1997, Andrew witnessed the painful death of his father Kit. Determined to help others avoid this suffering, he campaigned to introduce compassionate laws for voluntary assisted dying. His two, ground-breaking podcast series, ***Better Off Dead***, (2015 & 2021) helped to both inform, and inflame, this debate.

He formed the organisation *Go Gentle Australia* in 2016 to help Australians with untreatable or terminal illnesses, as well as their families and carers.

In tandem with state-based organisations, Andrew has led successful advocacy campaigns to introduce voluntary assisted dying laws in Victoria (2017), Western Australia (2019), Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland (2021), and New South Wales (2022).

Program

Saturday 29 October 2022

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

In person or online

8:00am Registration		
Facilitator: Professor Keith McNeil, Voluntary Assisted Dying Implementation Taskforce Chair		
Session 1: Welcome and opening address		
8:30am	Welcome to Country	To be confirmed
8:45am	Welcome to the voluntary assisted dying implementation forum	To be confirmed
9:00am	Voluntary assisted dying in Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynote speaker, Andrew Denton
9:30am	Supporting someone through the voluntary assisted dying process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Ann Bonner, Head of School, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Griffith University
Session 2: How voluntary assisted dying will be implemented in Queensland		
9:45am	Overview of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the voluntary assisted dying process the role of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board the Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Information Management System (QVAD-IMS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Tricia Matthias, Project Executive Director, Voluntary Assisted Dying, Queensland Health Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board Chair
10:30	Morning tea	
10:45am	Overview of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Support Service (QVAD-Support) the Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy Service (QVAD-Pharmacy) how to become an authorised voluntary assisted dying practitioner the mandatory training and healthcare worker education module healthcare worker support and wellbeing, and the community of practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Bav Manoharan, Clinical Lead Voluntary Assisted Dying, Queensland Health Professor Liz Reymond, Deputy Director of MetroSouth Palliative Care Service and Director of Brisbane South Palliative Care Collaborative Professor Ben White, Professor of End-of-Life Law and Regulation, Australian Centre for Health Law Research, QUT Ms Kat Waller, Project Coordinator, Australian Centre for Health Law Research, QUT

12:30pm	Lunch	
Session 3: Voluntary Assisted Dying in practice		
1:00pm	Voluntary assisted dying in Hospital and Health Services	Panel members to be confirmed
1:45pm	Overview of voluntary assisted dying in practice, working through case scenarios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Bav Manoharan, Clinical Lead Voluntary Assisted Dying, Queensland Health • Dr Fabian Jaramillo, General Practice Liaison Officer Metro North Hospital and Health Service / Brisbane North Primary Health Network • Dr Will Cairns OAM, Consultant Emeritus Townsville University Hospital, Associate Professor James Cook University • Additional panel members to be confirmed
2:45pm	Afternoon tea	
Session 4: The experience of other states		
3:00pm	Voluntary Assisted Dying in Practice Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Ann Bonner, Head of School, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Griffith University • Dr Cameron McLaren, Medical Oncologist, Victoria • Dr Claire Fellingham, Clinical Lead Voluntary Assisted Dying, East Metropolitan Health Service, Western Australia • Dr Gareth Wahl, Emergency Physiscian, Toxicologist, Co-Director of Emergency Medicine Training, Western Australia • Professor Michael Dooley, Director of Pharmacy, Alfred Health, Victoria
3:55pm	Close	
4:00	Networking event	
4:30	Day close	

Speakers



Professor Keith McNeil

Conference Facilitator, Voluntary Assisted Dying
Implementation Taskforce Chair



Professor Ann Bonner

Head of School, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Griffith
University

Prof Ann Bonner PhD, RN, has over 30 years' experience in nephrology and her research interests spans the trajectory of chronic kidney disease with a particular focus on health literacy, symptom management, self-management, health service innovation, and advanced practice nursing roles. She has attracted NHMRC research funding and has over 180 publications. Ann is a member of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Chronic Kidney Disease Expert Advisory Group, a life-member of the Renal Society of Australasia, and in 2021 was inducted into the International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame.



Dr Bav Manoharan

Clinical Lead, Voluntary Assisted Dying

Dr Bav Manoharan is focused on ensuring voluntary assisted dying in Queensland is high quality, safe, accessible and compassionate. Dr Manoharan was heavily involved in the Australian Medical Association Queensland (AMA Queensland) submission in response to the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill Parliamentary Inquiry as the peak medical body's Vice President and CEO at the time.

Before becoming the Voluntary Assisted Dying Clinical Lead he was the State Clinical Director of the Queensland Health COVID-19 Vaccination Taskforce and Vaccine Command Centre. He is a well-regarded systems and strategic thinker and understands the need and benefit of strong corporate and clinical governance in complex health systems.



Professor Ben White

Professor of End-of-Life Law and Regulation, Australian Centre for Health Law Research, QUT

Ben White is a Professor of End-of-Life Law and Regulation at the Australian Centre for Health Law Research in the Faculty of Business and Law, QUT. He has been researching end-of-life law, policy and practice for over 20 years, and now focuses on voluntary assisted dying. In late 2019, he was awarded a 4-year Australian Research Council Future Fellowship entitled 'Optimal Regulation of Voluntary Assisted Dying'. Ben's work has contributed to evidence-based voluntary assisted dying law reform and implementation. Key work (with Lindy Willmott) includes their model Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill and developing the mandatory training in Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland for clinicians providing voluntary assisted dying.



Professor Liz Reymond

Deputy Director of Metro South Palliative Care Service and Director of Brisbane South Palliative Care Collaborative

Liz Reymond is Deputy Director of Metro South Palliative Care Service (MSPCS) and Director of Brisbane South Palliative Care Collaborative—the research, education and service development arm of MSPCS. Her research interests include palliative care symptom management, advance care planning, and palliative care service delivery and development. Liz is currently directing various palliative care projects at local, Queensland-wide and National levels, including the national caring@home projects; the Queensland-wide PallConsult project providing support for clinicians delivering end-of-life care in Queensland; the Statewide Office of Advance Care Planning; and more recently has become involved with the Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy and Support Services.



Dr Fabian Jaramillo

General practice Liaison Officer MNHHS / Brisbane North PHN

Fabian migrated to Australia from Colombia in 2007. Since his arrival he has worked in a variety of practices throughout Queensland. He is a practicing GP in Kenmore and works as a GP Liaison Officer in Metro North.

Fabian is also currently collaborating with the Queensland Health Voluntary Assisted Dying Implementation Taskforce and with the implementation of voluntary assisted dying in the Brisbane North region.



Dr Gareth Wahl

Emergency physician, Toxicologist, Co-Director of Emergency Medicine Training, Perth

Dr Gareth Wahl is an Emergency Physician practising in a tertiary hospital in Perth. In addition to his Emergency Department work, Gareth has been supporting people to access their preferred end-of-life care (including voluntary assisted dying assessment and administration) in homes, hospitals and other care facilities across Western Australia since July 2021.



Ms Kat Waller

Project Coordinator, Australian Centre for Health Law Research, Faculty of Law, QUT,

Kat joined the Australian Centre for Health Law Research in 2019. She managed the Victorian voluntary assisted dying training program between 2019 and 2022. She was involved in the delivery of the voluntary assisted dying training program for Western Australia, and currently manages the development of the Queensland training. Kat also contributes to research in the area of end-of-life law. Prior to joining the Australian Centre for Health Law Research, Kat worked in business management and operations in the private sector for eight years.



Professor Michael Dooley

Director of Pharmacy, Alfred Health, Melbourne Australia

Michael is the Director of the Victorian Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy Service. He has had a leadership role in the development, implementation and delivery of medication and pharmacy related aspects of voluntary assisted dying in Victoria. This includes visiting patients and practitioners as part of the team of pharmacists who provide the service.

Michael holds a joint appointment as Director of Pharmacy at Alfred Health and Professor of Clinical Pharmacy, Centre for Medicine Use and Safety at Monash University in Melbourne Australia. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine at Monash University.



Ms Tricia Matthias

Project Executive Director, Voluntary Assisted Dying, Queensland Health

Tricia is responsible for leading the implementation of voluntary assisted dying in Queensland.

Tricia is a highly respected policy and legislation expert. Most recently she has led the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 debate process, and successfully managed the fast-moving development of the Chief Health Officers' Public Health Directions to assist in containing and responding to the spread of COVID-19 in Queensland.

She has extensive experience in leading teams through all stages of legislative development across more than 30 Bills, including the first Queensland laws to ban smoking in public places, criminalising the practice of conversion therapy, establishing Victims Assist Queensland and reform of TAFE Queensland.