

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING MEDIA WATCH November 9 - 15, 2025

The big news of the week - late on Friday - was the convincing passing in the Victorian Legislative Council of the amendments that will bring Victoria's legislation up to date and grant fairer access to those who need it. In New South Wales the second reading of the Carter amendment continued on Wednesday, with a particularly good speech against the bill by Emily Suuval MLC. Those interested can find it in Hansard. She had analysed the provision of aged care facilities in regional NSW and established the lack of choice for regional people.

There are several articles about people wanting to encourage or discourage the Governor of Illinois to sign the MAiD bill and Governor Pritzker seems to be sympathetic, but the bill is yet to be signed into law.

My recommendation for 'Must Read' is the article from New York on November 13! An excellent Academic article on November 10 from Impact Ethics at Memorial University in Newfoundland & Labrador is also highly recommended.

There are many articles on both sides of the current debate in the Lords, with the nearly 900 amendments being labeled a delaying tactic.

There are some articles which appear to be relevant but are authored by known providers of misinformation such as Kelsi Sheren in Canada (see Impact Ethics article on November 10) so I choose not to cite them.

This week's VAD Media Watch is compiled by Geoffrey Williams. Thanks go to DWD Victoria, Penny Hackett, DWD Canada, Suzanne James and Go Gentle Australia (as always).

AUSTRALIA

Australian Capital Territory

November 13

National Disability Services: [VAD services now available in the ACT](#) An information session is being presented online on November 20 for NDS providers to help them understand their obligations under the new VAD law.

New South Wales

November 10

Green Left: [Amanda Cohn MP: New Liberal anti-VAD bill 'cruel'](#) Journalist and VAD Advocate Suzanne James has an excellent article about Amanda Cohn's detailed reasons for opposing Susan Carter's "cruel" bill.

November 10

Law and Religion Australia blog: [Aged Care, VAD, Religious Freedom and s 109](#) An opinion by Newcastle Uni Law School Assoc Professor Neil Foster (an evangelical Christian) which opposes the one given by Arthur Moses SC and Dr Patrick Keyzer, which asserts that the amending Act would be invalid due to the operation of s 109 of the Commonwealth Constitution. He argues that the VAD Opinion actually omits the important phrase at the end of that clause: "in accordance with applicable laws and conventions". It is a long and tedious blog, and our academic readers will probably have no trouble refuting it.

November 11

Go Gentle Australia: [Joint statement: Protect an older person's right](#) This is an updated joint statement with 18 organisations supporting the stand against the bill proposed by Susan Carter MLC. This story is taken up by [Inside Ageing](#), [Media Net](#) and [AusDoc](#). Comments by Doctors on AusDoc are very interesting but are not accessible to the Public, see [Attachment 1](#). (It was also featured in [Aged Care Insight](#) on November 13.)

November 12

Go Gentle Australia: [The Australian Christian Lobby \(ACL\) at it again](#) GGA comments on how out of touch Church leaders are who are in favour of preventing residents of some Aged Care Facilities from accessing VAD, with a link to their joint statement.

Queensland

November 12

Nightshift: [Michael Kaltenbaugh, President of Dying With Dignity Queensland](#) is interviewed by Suzanne James, and discusses the Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board Annual Report 2024–2025. He is very positive about how well VAD is being managed. He considers it a great honour to be a ‘Second Witness’ for patients accessing VAD - he has done this four times so far.

Victoria

November 11

Mirage News: [VADANZ Applauds Victoria's Assisted Dying Act Reforms](#) Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia & New Zealand (VADANZ) welcomes the Victorian Government's Bill proposing 13 amendments to the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017. VADANZ President, Dr Andrea Bendrups, applauded the proposed changes: "VADANZ congratulates the Victorian Government for listening to both feedback and evidence gathered from experience in other states and for taking the steps to create a more person-centred, compassionate, and practical VAD system."

November 11

Instagram: [Fiona Patten's comment on Legislative Council debate](#) Fiona gives her personal endorsement to the 13 amendments being debated in the Legislative Council this week, with a link to the VAD Instagram page (which also mentions the Joint Statement by NSW organisations against Susan Carter's bill).

November 11

ABC Victoria Statewide Mornings: [Interview with Robyn about her daughter Nicole](#) Robyn spoke at the Parliamentary Forum on September 11, and this interview shares her very personal story with the public. ‘Quality of life, not quantity’ is the message that comes across.

November 14

Go Gentle Australia: [Win!](#) 26:14 in favour in the Victorian Legislative Council - the Upper House. A hearty Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this fantastic result - People Power in action!!

November 15

ABC News: [Doctors free to discuss Voluntary Assisted Dying with patients after Victorian MPs pass amendments](#) A very positive story, with a sympathetic review of the sad case of Alex Blain, whose fiancée, Liz Tower has been one of the DWDV Young Ambassadors working hard to introduce these amendments. The article finishes with the very effective comment: "People who are sick shouldn't have to do hard things. They're already doing the hard thing, which is being sick." Alex would be very proud of her.

INTERNATIONAL

Argentina

November 10

The Asia Business Daily: [Uruguay's 'Legalization of Euthanasia' Sparks Debate in Argentina](#) ‘Passive Euthanasia’ has been allowed by Argentina’s Dignified Death Act since 2012, but Uruguay’s recent legislation is now starting calls for Assisted Dying in Argentina as well. It is interesting that this is reported in an Asian publication.

Canada

November 10

Impact Ethics (Memorial University, Newfoundland & Labrador): [Misinformation about Medical Assistance in Dying](#) An excellent article describing how fake information inappropriately influences public behaviour, and specifically how it might unfairly dissuade someone from considering MAiD. It strongly supports the quality of the articles by 'MAiD in Canada'.

November 12

MAiD in Canada: [Our Letter in The Atlantic](#) You might remember an article entitled "Canada is killing itself" a few months ago in *The Atlantic*. After much effort and restraint by the team at MAiD in Canada, they have finally managed to get a right of reply in the newspaper. This link describes the editorial process they had to endure and provides links to the Atlantic retraction as well as the original they sent. Scroll down to the third letter.

November 12

CBC Radio 1: [DWDC interview about MAiD via Advance Request](#) Helen Long, CEO of DWDC talks about Advance Requests for MAiD. A survey in the past 12 months has shown that 76% of Canadians favour accessing MAiD via an advance request. Fast forward to 7:53.10.

November 12

LifeSiteNews: [Quebec's 2024–2025 report reveals MAiD accounts for 7.4% of all provincial deaths](#) The figures are interesting, but the commentary contains the same old arguments that have already been refuted.

November 13

Assoc. for Reformed Political Action (ARPA): [Health Canada Releases Report on Advance Requests for Euthanasia](#) Lots of statistics about levels of support for MAiD via Advance Requests in different scenarios. The majority are supportive, but the level changes from one scenario to another. (Very moderate for a Christian site.)

November 14

Research Gate: [Medical Assistance in Dying in Canada: A Review for Canadian Dermatologists](#) Some dermatologists may be consulted by medical teams for their expertise in complex dermatologic conditions like aggressive skin cancers in patients who are considering end-of-life care options. Dr Stefanie Green is one of the authors.

Ireland

November 9

Ocean FM: [Public to gather in Sligo in support of Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation](#) Janie Lazar from End-of-Life-Ireland invites people to attend a gathering to honour those campaigners (including Marie Fleming) who have died waiting for Assisted Dying in Ireland, and have had to travel overseas if they could.

November 9

Irish Independent: [Campaigner urges rethink of Ireland's six-month limit on assisted dying eligibility](#) Arklow resident and assisted dying campaigner Tom Curran (who supported his partner, Marie Fleming) is urging the Irish Government not to apply a time prognosis to their proposed legislation, after discussing this issue with Australians. Behind a paywall, but the available information gives the general idea.

India

November 10

Indian Journal of Law and Legal Research: [Revisiting The Right To Die With Dignity: The Impact Of Common Cause V. Union Of India On Euthanasia Law](#) This research critically analyzes the development of India's right to die with dignity and draws upon the constitutional, ethical, and social frameworks that shape the application of 'passive euthanasia'.

Slovenia

November 10

Slovenian Press Agency (STA): [Parties divided on assisted dying ahead of referendum](#) Slovenia heads to the polls on 23 November for a referendum on a law permitting assisted dying. (Behind a paywall, but the available info lets us know it's coming up.)

United Kingdom (TIA Bill = Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill)

November 7

Hansard Society UK: [TIA Bill - Rolling News](#) A useful link to updates about the debate in the Lords. This same link will probably continue to be helpful.

November 8

Mental Capacity Law and Policy: [Capacity, decisions to end one's own life, and the Terminally Ill Adults \(End of Life\) Bill](#) Alex Ruck Keene KC, a specialist in Mental Capacity and Healthcare Ethics who addressed the House of Lords Committee this week, has provided more information on his website. There are links to other useful resources on this webpage.

November 9

Right To Life on YouTube: [TIA Bill and Dementia](#) The British Geriatrics Society confirmed that someone with dementia could be eligible under the 'assisted suicide' Bill – and warned that people with dementia may choose an early death unnecessarily. This is a negative spin on the actual words used in the short YouTube clip. The speaker did NOT use the words 'suicide' and 'unnecessarily'. The clip itself is quite positive. The actual coverage of the whole hearing by BBC is not available in Australia.

November 10

Christian Post: [Scottish Parliament rejects safeguards to assisted suicide as concerns mount](#) There is predictable concern by opponents about the recommended removal of the six month prognosis, and the requirement that the condition is terminal.

November 10

My Death, My Decision: [Assisted dying: Experts warn against complexity and bureaucracy](#) A useful summary of the last 5 days of hearings in the House of Lords Committee. They also comment on an apparent bias against the TIA Bill, and mention that the Bishop of Newcastle (on Tyne) claims to have no conflict of interest, even though she is paid by the Church of England which is opposed. (My comment - I know an Anglican Priest in Sydney who is pro-VAD but does not speak publicly against the official position of his employer. There are no doubt others...)

November 10

Right to Life: [Chief Medical Officer \(CMO\) for England, Chris Whitty, warns talking a loved one out of assisted suicide is "coercion"](#) He was addressing a House of Lords Committee, and anti-assisted dying groups are upset that he targets people who try to talk loved ones OUT of Assisted Dying. This article focuses on suicide prevention and demonstrates well how their thinking is skewed. The article finishes with the ironic comment: "The Chief Medical Officer ought to be ashamed of his comments and would be well-advised to stick to topics on which he is more knowledgeable".

November 10

The Guardian: [As a palliative care specialist, I've witnessed the human tragedy of our end-of-life care crisis](#) The critical shortages of palliative care in hospices are highlighted, and the comment is made in the context of the TIA Bill proceedings that "...politicians have rightly been unanimous in their insistence that high-quality palliative care should be available to anyone considering assisted dying." This is not an argument of VAD v palliative care, but rather one that palliative care needs many more resources. Let's hope that this problem is helped, rather than hindered by the TIA Bill debate. The genuine concern by the PC specialist is heart-felt.

November 11

British Psychological Society: [Are psychologists ready to provide support in assisted dying?](#) Despite the importance of psychological support when it comes to death and dying, a new study published in *OMEGA: Journal of Death and Dying* suggests that in Australia, where voluntary assisted dying is already legal, psychologists face significant barriers to providing support despite being well-positioned to play a role. There is a link to the full research article.

November 13

BBC: [Peers suggest over 900 changes to assisted dying bill](#) Experts believe the number of amendments, which is understood to be 942, is unprecedented, but opponents say significant alterations are needed to ensure any scheme can operate safely. There appear to be seven opponents to the bill who have submitted 579 amendments between them. The news focuses on the noisy opponents. (Perhaps a Lord will gag debate by moving that the motion be put, to ensure that time doesn't run out.)

November 13

Royal Pharmaceutical Society: [RPS involved in high-level advocacy across GB on Assisted Dying](#) Some pharmacists also want the right to conscientiously object.

November 14

Daily Mail: ['Dr Death' LAUGHS as he discusses past comments about 'sacrificing grannies' during assisted dying debate](#) It is very unfortunate when pro-VAD doctors make inappropriate comments! Let's hope other pro-VAD campaigners learn from this lesson. As expected, opponents of VAD seize on such indiscreet comments, but I haven't included such articles.

November 14

Sky News: [Ed's life changed in the blink of an eye](#) Uncharacteristically for Sky News, this is a sensitive interview about an 82yo lady who has been diagnosed with a nasty brain tumour, and is asking the Lords to back the TIA Bill. This is typical of the type of stories appearing wherever VAD has been debated.

November 14

Daily Mirror: ['I fear my family seeing me die in unbearable pain while Lords are playing games'](#) Similarly, the Mirror is also being sympathetic to vulnerable, dying patients who are frustrated by the tactics of opponents in the Lords.

November 14

Children's Commissioner: [Children's Commissioner Statement](#) in respect of his responsibility under The Children Act 2004 which instructs him to treat as a child anyone between 18 and 25 who has ever been in care. He seeks to increase the minimum age for the TIA Bill to 25.

November 14

The Guardian: [Readers respond to an article by Rachel Clarke on how people are dying without the support they need](#) A few excellent letters in response to the article on November 10.

United States of America

November 8 (late)

Chronicle Illinois: [Governor says he'll review 'medical aid in dying' bill](#) Governor Pritzker seems sympathetic, as he knows people who have suffered terrible pain and anguish when dying. The article also has the usual waffle by opponents.

November 9

Chicago Tribune: [I urge Pritzker to sign Deb's Law](#) A letter to the editor, reproduced on Instagram, urging the Governor to sign the Assisted Dying law. The author lost both her parents, each facing terminal illness, without the option of medical aid in dying in Illinois.

November 10

Bishop's University (Sherbrooke, QC): [Sharing Family Experiences during the Process of Assisted Dying – A Pilot Project](#) With the support of her supervisors, graduate psychology student Rosemarie Boudreau was able to work in a clinical setting with elderly individuals and patients receiving palliative care, many of whom were considering or had requested Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD).

November 11

Compassion & Choices on X: [No instances of abuse](#) A brief post on X about the experience to date, and the extensive safeguards in New York's bill. Sign in with X to see more details.

November 13 **MUST READ!!**

New York / Amsterdam News: [How my father's final days changed my mind about medical aid in dying](#) Assemblyman Al Taylor, a Clergyman, very effectively describes how his strong anti-MAiD view was turned around when his father got cancer, and how he now views MAiD. Here is a partial quote to give you the flavour: "... It is not 'assisted suicide' and it is not 'euthanasia'. It is an act of mercy for someone in excruciating pain who has decided they have endured all they can." I predict that this Op-ed will become an important turning point in New York, and perhaps many other states yet to pass MAiD legislation.

November 13

CBS: [Future remains uncertain for New York's "Medical Aid In Dying" bill](#) Arguments for and against MAiD by New Yorkers wanting to influence the Governor's vote. Unfortunately, the opinion of Assemblyman Al Taylor (see previous item) was not mentioned. The Governor talks about separating her personal beliefs (which indicates bias one way or the other).

November 13

Spectrum News: [Advocates urge Hochul to sign bill to legalize medically assisted suicide](#) The mover of the NY MAiD legislation, Assemblywoman Amy Paulin is interviewed ahead of the anticipated / hoped-for signing by the Governor.

November 14

Westchester News 12: [Dozens rally in support of Medical Aid in Dying Act](#) Another item featuring Amy Paulin and supporters of MAiD.

November 15

CBS6 Albany: [Rally held to support Medical Aid in Dying Act](#) A brief TV coverage of a rally held to encourage the Governor to sign the MAiD Bill into law.

ALSO OF INTEREST

November 8

The Conversation: [Silent but not serene: what science says about nitrogen death](#) This article questions whether descriptions of death by pure Nitrogen are as serene as described by Dr Philip Nitschke.

November 9

A Rich Life: [OpenAI Sued over Alleged ChatGPT-Assisted Suicides](#) It is alleged that young people are being guided into suicide by artificial intelligence (AI). (Will the allegation soon be made that people will also be guided by AI towards assisted dying?)

November 13

Chatelaine: [MAiD In Canada - Everything You Need To Know](#) A very helpful general guide by well-known and reputed authors for someone who doesn't know much about assisted dying.

November 14

ABC Conversations: Script writer, Samantha Strauss was interviewed by Sarah Kanowski, and in the last 15 minutes she briefly discusses VAD in the context of her writing a script about life in a Retirement Village on the Gold Coast.

November 14

ABC News: [Dementia now the leading cause of death nationwide, overtaking heart disease](#) Dementia has overtaken heart disease as the leading cause of death across Australia, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). ABS head of mortality statistics Lauren Moran said the number of deaths caused by dementia had risen by 39 per cent over the past decade. There are lots of interesting statistics.

November 14

WFRtDS: [2025 Financial Appeal](#) The World Federation of RtD Societies is planning to become an International Non-Governmental Organisation, with a view to having Consultative Status with the United Nations (UN).