

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING MEDIA WATCH November 23 - 29, 2025

The best news of the week is that Julian Kingma won a Walkley Award in the Feature/Photo Essay category for 'The Power of Choice'. Congratulations to all involved in the preparation and publication!!

Professor Ben White at QUT's Australian Centre for Health Law Research has provided reminder details of next year's 5th International Conference on Assisted Dying and Other End-of Life Care (ICEL5) to be held in Brisbane. **Early Bird Registrations close TODAY, 30 November**, so please check out the [Advance Notice](#) item in 'Also of Interest' at the end of this Media Watch ASAP. The link also provides a link to the ICEL5 website. There is also an [Advance Notice](#) about a webinar on Zoom with the Hemlock Society on 6 December, which will be 7 December in the Australian Eastern Summer Time zones.

Canada's opponents of MAiD are taking umbrage at the slightest provocation, such as a simple information session about MAiD for retired Police Officers - included as an example. The Canadian Government's official 6th Annual Report (for 2024) was released.

Some articles dated November 22 were published after the previous issue had been finalised.

Our NT Correspondent, Judy Dent received a buffeting from Cyclone Fina but is unscathed. Her garden was badly affected. We're all thinking of you, Judy.

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

November 25

Life Course Centre: [Centre researcher awarded funding](#) Centre Research Fellow, Dr Stefanie Plage, has secured an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) grant to help drive Australia's future innovation. This project aims to better understand preferences, perspectives and opportunities to improve end-of-life care for people experiencing homelessness.

November 27

ConnectSCI: [Telehealth use in Voluntary Assisted Dying: a systematic review](#) *Australian Health Review* published a systematic review of peer-reviewed articles on telehealth and VAD examining the global use of telehealth to support access to VAD, global restrictions to telehealth-enabled VAD, and the practical and clinical implications of using telehealth in supporting VAD. No surprises - global evidence from VAD and other sensitive medical fields supports the conclusion that telehealth's benefits outweigh its risks.

November 28

Minter Ellison: [Changes to voluntary assisted dying laws](#) A brief summary of the recent changes to VAD laws in Victoria, the recent unsuccessful attempt in NSW to amend the law, and the implementation of the ACT law.

New South Wales

November 25

AusDoc: [Do conscientious objectors now fear speaking out against voluntary assisted dying? This geriatrician says yes](#) A surprisingly sensationalised comment in *AusDoc* on the defeat of the Carter Bill by a geriatrician who suggests it encroaches on conscientious freedoms. There is only a superficial description of this opinion, but the heading gives the flavour.

November 25

Dying With Dignity NSW: [How the MLCs voted](#) on the Susan Carter Bill to allow aged care facilities to not allow residents to access VAD in their homes. Scroll down until you find David Pieper's post with the table. No matter what your political persuasion, this is valuable information for NSW voters who choose to vote

‘below the line’ at the next State election.

November 28

Go Gentle Australia: [Second anniversary of VAD implementation in NSW](#) Board Chair Prof Jenni Millbank says: "While we do not yet have two full years of data to report, it is clear that voluntary assisted dying activity in NSW has increased during this time. This trend is consistent with reports from other Australian jurisdictions." Just under 50% of first requests were acted upon to access VAD. There is a link to the full report.

Queensland

November 23

Nursing CPD: [Voluntary Assisted Dying in Aged Care](#) A welcome sign that VAD is being integrated into Professional Development courses.

Victoria

November 22

Nightshift with Suzanne James: [Discussing the Victorian VAD Amendments with DWDV President Jane Morris](#) An excellent summary of the exciting amendments to the Victorian legislation, described clearly by Jane Morris whose voice is ideally suited to radio.

November 27

Go Gentle Australia: [Julian Kingma wins Walkley Award for Excellence in Journalism for 'The Power of Choice'](#) The award is in the feature/photo essay category for Julian's deeply personal portraits and photo essays that capture the hope, struggle, courage and acceptance at the heart of voluntary assisted dying.

Western Australia

November 25

Geraldton Guardian: [VAD Board annual report reveals more than one in 20 Mid West deaths a result of VAD](#) An example of how the WA Report is being discussed in the regional areas. 5% is not a surprising figure, but the inference in the article is that this is a surprisingly high figure.

INTERNATIONAL

Canada

November 23

Canadian Affairs News: [Expert MAID recommendations look unlikely to inform policy](#) An expert committee has recommended medical bodies consider its reports when making MAID policy. It's unclear that they will. It gives genuine examples of some questionable cases.

November 25

Lioness of Judah: [HAVE WE COMPLETELY LOST THE PLOT?](#) A sensationalised article with the usual emotive language in response to a session about MAiD for retired RCMP Police Officers in Nova Scotia "that may interest many". It is based on the blog of anti-MAiD campaigner Kelsi Sheren who has 'lost the plot'. This is included to demonstrate how testy and extreme the anti-MAiD campaigners are, and I won't include any articles emanating from Kelsi Sheren again.

November 25

Slay News: [Canada Funnels \\$1 Billion to Foreign Healthcare While Own Citizens Are Euthanized Amid Deadly Treatment Waitlists](#) Federal funding priorities predictably frustrate opponents of MAiD, repeating the false stories about people being offered MAiD instead of better healthcare. They don't let truth get in the way of a good story.

November 26

CBC: [Year after quadriplegic Quebec man chose assisted dying, advocates prepare class action](#) The widow of Normand Meunier who sought MAiD after developing horrific bedsores in hospital intends to initiate a law suit for damages. This seems to be an appropriate action after a very reasonable request for a therapeutic mattress for the quadriplegic Quebec man was completely ignored. The controversial case fed a frenzy of opponents in support of the Disabled Community.

November 28

Government of Canada: [Sixth Annual Report on MAiD](#) for the 2024 year was only released this week. This report details 22,535 reports of MAiD requests that Health Canada received in 2024. A total of 16,499 people received MAiD; the remaining cases were requests that did not result in a MAiD provision (4,017 died of another cause, 1,327 individuals were deemed ineligible and 692 individuals withdrew their request). Plenty of other statistics.

India

November 29

The Indian Express: [In thinking of the good death, what are the lines we ought to draw?](#) An Indian Journalist's personal response to an announcement by a Canadian colleague that he had dementia and was going to access MAiD.

Netherlands

November 24

Dutch News: [Petition to decriminalise euthanasia receives 75,000 signatures](#) A call to let patients, and not doctors, decide when to access assisted dying. This was motivated by a doctor who was found guilty of breaking the Medicines Act by supplying an anti-nausea drug to dozens of people as an "essential part" of a suicide kit.

November 25

Springer: [Willingness of Dutch general practitioners to grant euthanasia and assisted suicide requests: a comparative study of physical and mental health conditions](#) There is significant reluctance, even in the Netherlands, to provide "Euthanasia / Assisted Suicide" (EAS) to patients with mental health issues. This study explores how Dutch general practitioners' willingness to grant and perform EAS requests differs between physical and mental health conditions and compares the underlying decision-making processes. There is a glossary of terms towards the end before the references.

Slovenia

November 24

APNews: [Slovenians reject in a referendum a law on assisted dying for terminally ill patients](#) A disappointing 53% opposing assisted dying. Only a 41% voter turnout, but some media refer to 53% of the 1.7million eligible voters, instead of 41% of that number. Sunday's outcome means that the existing law is now suspended. There is the usual waffle about compassion winning the day. (They need to read tragic stories such as Annaliese Holland's case from last week.) Advocates of assisted dying said they were disappointed but expressed conviction a law will be passed in the future.

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

November 26

Humanists UK: [12 more days for Assisted Dying Bill means peers should stop filibustering](#) The Government has announced 12 further days of House of Lords time that will be set aside for debating the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, in addition to the four days of debate that have already occurred. As a result of

this, Humanists UK and My Death, My Decision have said it is time for peers opposed to the Bill to stop using delaying tactics, known as filibustering, and instead get on and scrutinise it constructively.

November 27

The Guardian: [Peers are just doing their job in scrutinising the assisted dying bill](#) 3 letters to the editor in reaction to an article by Simon Jenkins. Some interesting perspectives about the style of debate in the Commons v the Lords.

November 27

BBC: ['Utmost protection' in assisted dying law](#) A panel of politicians said it was "content" the level of detail in proposed assisted dying laws ensured Jersey residents would have the "utmost protection and support". The assisted dying review panel quizzed Health Minister Deputy Tom Binet about the proposed service terminally ill adults would be able to self-refer to, without necessarily needing to go via their doctor.

November 28

Disability News Service: [Disabled peers call on Lords to increase protection from coercion in assisted suicide bill](#) Three disabled peers have called on the House of Lords to make it harder for disabled people to be "coerced" or subjected to "undue influence" before requesting an assisted suicide through measures in a controversial bill. The usual objections were cited, which Lord Falconer then confidently addressed, pointing out all the strong safeguards.

November 28

The Herald Scotland: [Doctors reveal concerns over assisted dying proposals for Scotland](#) The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (RCPSG), which maintains a neutral stance on assisted dying, surveyed its Members and Fellows on the practicalities of implementing the TIA Bill for England and Wales and the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill. The findings reveal a profession divided. Of the 635 respondents, 41% said they either "completely supported" or were "leaning towards supporting" the legislation, while 49% said they were either "leaning towards opposing" or "completely opposed" to the bills in their current form. Less than 20% would be willing to take part. More work to be done to educate/reassure doctors.

United States of America

November 24

Live Action: [Boise man arrested for alleged 'assisted suicide' of friend](#) A man has been charged with first degree murder after alerting authorities that he had assisted his friend to die. It seems that it might be a cover for malevolent purposes.

November 24

Death With Dignity: [Why I Advocate: Andrea LaChapelle](#) A sensitive review by a widow about why she and her late husband wished MAiD was available in Minnesota.

November 25

Death With Dignity: [Latest News](#) Links to the 2025 Annual Report of DWD, a feature story about Deb Robertson, a prominent MAiD campaigner from Illinois, and an article about supporting ALS patients through MAiD - 'Reflections from the Bedside'.

November 26

Buzzsprout: [Death With Dignity podcast](#) An independent advocate interviews Mandi Zucker, Executive Director of End-of-Life Choices, NY. It is over an hour - not concise like our own Suzanne James.

November 28

DWD Victoria: [Thank you message to Volunteers](#) A delightful anonymous quote on their FaceBook page says it all! What a delight it is to be part of a wonderful international community of assisted dying advocates!

ALSO OF INTEREST

November 22

National Library of Medicine: [Global Perspectives on Physician-Assisted Death: A Cross-Sectional Survey of Doctors' Opinions](#) This academic article reports on the survey of 107 people over 17 countries about physicians' attitudes to VAD. Doctors across multiple countries demonstrate nuanced but generally supportive views of PAD under strict safeguards. Nothing surprising.

November 22

Reason (December Edition): [Katie Engelhart on Medically Assisted Dying in the U.S. vs. Canada](#) Canadian Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Katie Engelhart wrote *The Inevitable: Dispatches on the Right to Die*. In this conversation with *Reason's* Kevin Alexander, Engelhart discusses why people choose assisted death, compares U.S. and Canadian health care systems and assisted-dying laws, and addresses debates about disability rights and media coverage of medically assisted dying. It is a brief article and is unemotional and 'reasonable'.

November 24

Lamp of Islam: [Quran doesn't specifically mention suicide or euthanasia](#) Siraj Islam offers a 'progressive' sympathetic view of assisted dying from an Islamic perspective. Not surprisingly, this other major religion also has compassionate people who interpret the Holy Book with more nuance, rather than with a harsh literal approach.

November 28

DWD Canada: [Can MAiD be a "faithful" response?](#) A compassionate Christian, and very personal response to MAiD by Trish Cunningham, a Spiritual Care Practitioner and Educator at Niagara Health and ordained Presbyterian Minister. Trish became a volunteer with the MAiD Family Support Society.

ADVANCE NOTICES

December 6 - 7

Hemlock Society of San Diego: [Three Doctors discuss why they support MAiD](#) A very interesting looking session presented by a retired pulmonologist, a retired physician whose wife accessed MAiD, and a hospice director. There is a Zoom link at this site for the 1.30 - 3.00pm session on Saturday December 6 on the USA Pacific Coast which is 19 hours behind Sydney and Melbourne, so 8.30am next Sunday in Sydney and Melbourne etc.

January 18, 2026

Hemlock Society of San Diego: [Twelve ways to avoid late stage Dementia](#) Dr Thaddeus Pope will discuss "New and Emerging Right to Die Options" in the context of dementia. It is a link to the same webpage as the previous item.

April 8-11, 2026

QUT Australian Centre for Health Law Research: [5th International Conference on Assisted Dying and Other End-of-Life Care \(ICEL5\)](#) Registrations are open for this in-person event at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) at Gardens Point campus. They are very excited to announce that the Faculty of Business and Law (QUT), in partnership with the Australian Centre for Health Law Research (ACHLR), is offering four bursaries to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health executives, leaders, and PhD/ MPhil candidates to attend the ICEL5

TAKE NOTE: For early bird prices on registration, register by TODAY, 30 November 2025.