

Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) in South Australia: The First 5 Months



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SA Health

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Flinders University | Research Centre for Palliative Care, Death & Dying

What Works Well

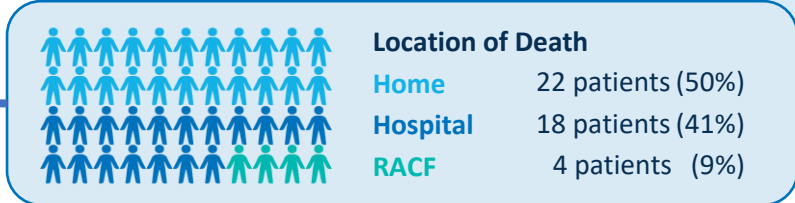
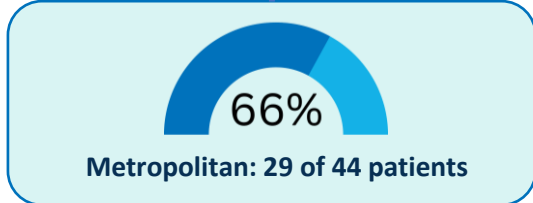
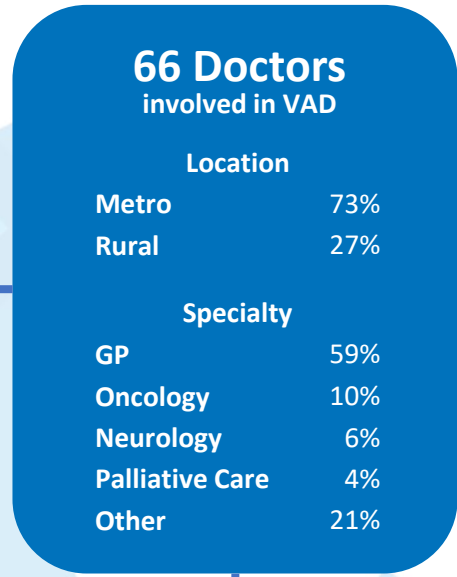
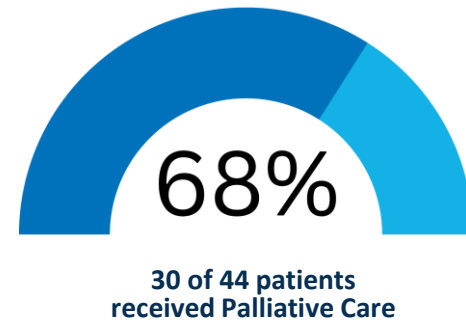
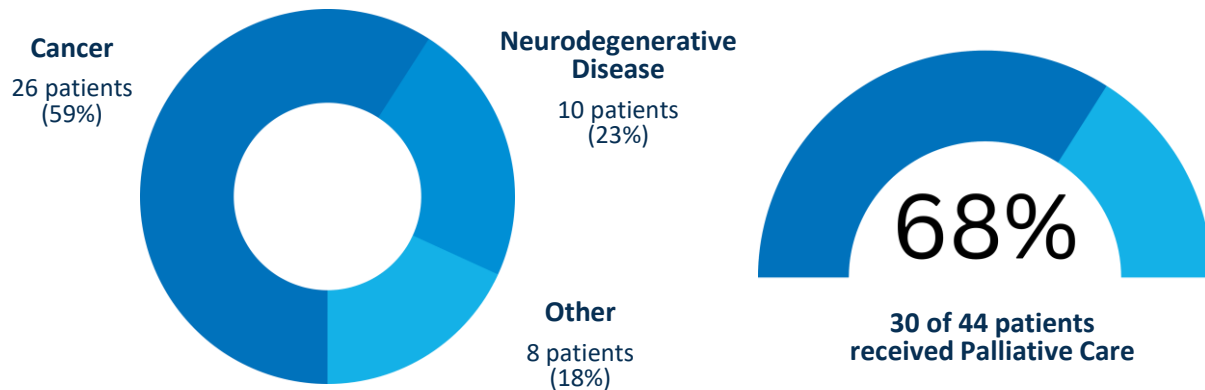
- Spirit of cooperation all staff
- Coordination by VAD Navigators
- Willingness of clinicians involved
- Community of Practice

Challenges for VAD Provision

- Increasing pool of VAD Doctors
- Equitable access for rural patients
- Pressure on acute care beds for VAD
- Funding/Remuneration for clinicians
- Restrictions around telehealth for VAD

Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) commenced on 31 January 2023 with an 18-month implementation period, overseen by a Taskforce and 5 Working Groups: IT, Clinical Pathways, Clinical Guidelines, Pharmacy, Education. The South Australian VAD Team includes Clinical Navigators & Hospital Liaison RN, Pharmacy, Clinical Advisors, and Dept Health & Wellbeing VAD Operations.

In the first five months, 68 VAD Permits were issued with 44 deaths in patients with a Permit. The average time from First Request to Permit was 27 days. Of the 44 patients who died:



27 patients (61%) were aged 70 and over – of which 3 patients (7%) were over 90.