

# The Growth and Development of a Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy Community of Practice in Australia

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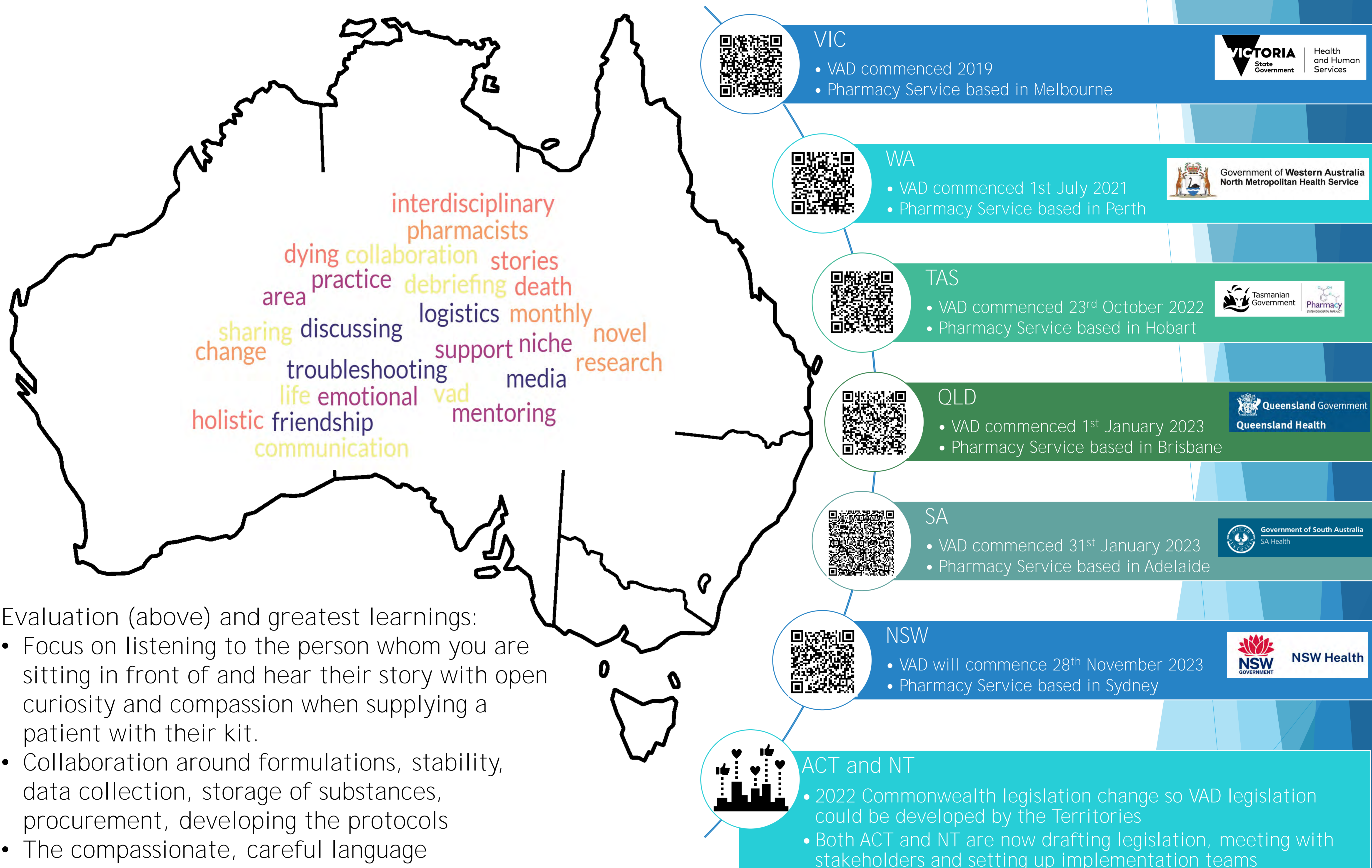
## Background and action:

Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) is now legislated in all states in Australia. Each state has legislation that differs, but each state has a centralised pharmacy service that is responsible for VAD medication management, storage and education and operates statewide.



Comparison of VAD Legislation across Australia

Since VAD commenced in Victoria in 2019, each state has embarked on its own unique journey to develop and implement a VAD Pharmacy Service. A peer network was developed to support all the states embarking on this journey. Setup of new services could occur more efficiently and with lower risk based on these shared learnings.



## Evaluation (above) and greatest learnings:

- Focus on listening to the person whom you are sitting in front of and hear their story with open curiosity and compassion when supplying a patient with their kit.
- Collaboration around formulations, stability, data collection, storage of substances, procurement, developing the protocols
- The compassionate, careful language demonstrated in counselling

## Transferability to other settings:

This model of collaboration would be applicable to any new area of pharmacy practice. It allows informal and formal structures to support others working in the area and collaborate to improve outcomes for patients and allows networking across Australia.

**Peer support to train pharmacists**

- Face to face
- Similarities
- Extra training for pharmacists working in VAD
- Differences
- Legislation
- Role of the pharmacist in supply chain
- Logistics

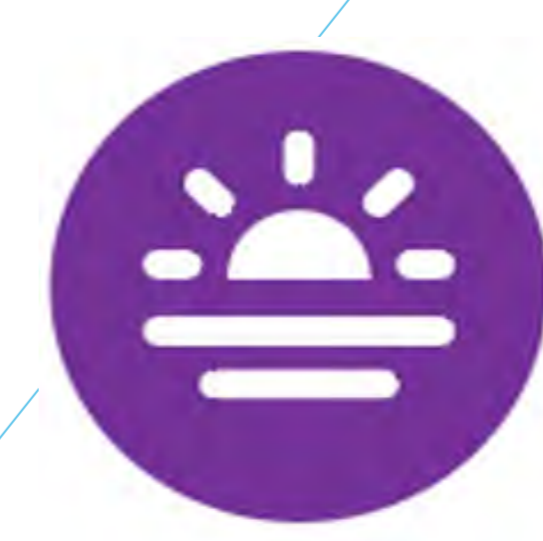
**Informal peer network developed**

- Started as three pharmacists, and now there over 30 pharmacists
- Regular monthly catch-ups

**VAD practice groups**

- Establishment of SHPA VAD Interest Group
- Establishment of VAD practitioners' membership body for Australia and New Zealand (VADANZ)

The Growth of the VAD Pharmacy Community of practice



#SHPAVAD