

1. Do you support making VAD legal in the NT?

I support making voluntary assisted dying (VAD) legal in the Northern Territory.

The NT remains the only jurisdiction in Australia without access to VAD, which creates inequality and forces terminally ill people to either endure suffering or relocate interstate. It's time for the parliament to show compassion and respect for personal choice.

2. What eligibility criteria should a person need to meet before they can access VAD?

The eligibility criteria should be consistent with other Australian states and territories, including: that a person must make a voluntary and informed request for VAD, without any coercion.

3. How could the NT make sure that an eligible person can access VAD in a safe and effective way, including people living in remote areas and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

The Territory already provides health services to remote areas, and where services can't be provided in remote communities, patients have to travel to bigger population centres such as Darwin and Alice Springs for treatment. It would be no different for accessing VAD. Education, interpreters, and community discussions are vital, and they can be provided through Zoom, Telehealth, etc.

4. How could the NT monitor the process to ensure VAD is delivered safely and effectively?

There should be mandatory reporting of all VAD requests and outcomes.

An independent review board should monitor all VAD cases and publish annual reports to ensure transparency, safety, and accountability.

In conclusion ..

VAD is about giving people the ability to choose the timing and manner of their death, when death is approaching and inevitable.

It is also a matter of equity. Residents of the Northern Territory should not be second class disadvantaged citizens in their own country.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lorraine Davies