

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LA VAD](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Submission VAD  
**Date:** Tuesday, 5 August 2025 6:13:25 PM

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Edited submission as below

----- Original message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 5/8/25 18:02 (GMT+09:30)  
**To:** LA.VAD@nt.gov.au  
**Subject:** Submission VAD

Good afternoon,

I support making VAD legal in the NT. As an aging clinical nurse specialist, I have a chronic illness that currently does not impact me too much, however there could be a time it may become unbearable and medications no longer help. My reasons to advocate for VAD are;

As a 16 year old, many long years ago, I was a solo carer for my father who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, with no hope after he was operated on, basically closed up and given a death sentence. The prognosis to pancreatic cancer really has not improved to this day. So as a young carer I witnessed him waste away for 6 long months, his weight dropped rapidly, lost bodily functions, he turned yellow, he cried in pain every night, often for my mum who had only died 2 months prior from a massive stroke. He wasn't able to tolerate food or fluids and he did not want to die in hospital, BUT he wanted to die at home, and of his own accord by taking an overdose. He had endured enough but I didn't want to lose him, I was 16 and clinging onto my parent so the night I found him with his painkillers about to take them I took the bottle and hid them, thereafter only giving him them as prescribed. It was awful, but something I have regretted after he died, was that I did not turn a blind eye and walk away when I found him with his plan to end his life. After that he continued to deteriorate rapidly and on his last day on earth I had to help a parent who had wasted away, dribbling profusely from his mouth get off of the toilet. I couldn't and I will never forget him finally saying call an ambulance to which I did. He died that night in the Modbury hospital SA, my eldest brother was with him and apparently it was "an awful death". Fast forward many years later as a registered nurse I worked on a palliative care ward and was given my patient load. I walked into a room and there on the bed poking out from the covers was a withered head, no hair and I could only think it was Gollum from Lord of the Rings, and why was this person still alive?? I cried, there was no VAD at that stage in SA but at least now there is and everywhere else in Australia EXCEPT my home of the last 11 years, the NT. Maybe that person if they were now alive would have decided on VAD, maybe they would not have, but there now is a choice in every other state and territory bar the NT. As a nurse I have come across aging clients who have expressed their wishes to choose VAD, and their desire is because they have lived enough of their life, seen their friends pass, family look on them as a burden and they are ready for the peace of death. It won't be that simple of course to die with stringent laws to be passed, but the choice for pro VAD is a must for Territorians. We are antiquated compared to the rest of Australia, the NT being my home but one I will move from to a place of acceptance of my choice if I choose VAD. Religion should not be a decider for this legislation to be passed, the NT CM Lia Finocchiaro needs to listen to her constituents, not christian lobby groups. When my father was dying religion did nothing to

help him, you CM can help by passing this law.  
Debra R nee Chamings

