

VAD submission – Darryl Arthur Hill

To whom it may concern,

As a Baby Boomer, 1949 version, I am mindful of the inevitable and how I would wish my life to end if I was suffering in old age or was terminally ill.

I came to the NT sixty years ago to work in the pastoral industry; the hardest thing I have ever had to do, was to put down old work horses and dogs to save them from suffering a long, painful death; a humane act of respect and kindness to old animal mates.

A peaceful release from pain and suffering to those who wish to claim their death with dignity and to spare their loved ones further distress is also a humane option.

Not long ago, an old mate, born and bred in the NT was suffering a painful, terminal illness. He moved to Queensland, organised his funeral and VAD then left this world and his loved ones with a smoke in one hand and a nip of rum in the other.

He left on his own terms, bravely and contented. Moving interstate to end his life was his only option, causing extra stress to him and his family during those months of ‘Goodbyes’ and grieving.

During all of this VAD debate, a lady in the Katherine region was seeking a gun to end her life at a time when her pain and suffering becomes too unbearable. Alone and suffering, not a dignified way to die. Unnecessary, very sad endings for Territorians.

I believe the NT Government’s deliberation of the VAD Legislation should not be based on religious and cultural beliefs.

I hope when my time comes, be it with illness or deprivation of memory I have a choice of dying with dignity over being denied the VAD option.

A decision for a peaceful death also encompasses love and concern for an already grieving family.

Yours sincerely,  
Darryl Hill