

From: [Ciara O'Brien](#)
To: [LA VAD](#)
Subject: VAD Submission NT
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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the introduction of Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) legislation in the Northern Territory.

My name is Ciara O'Brien and I live in [REDACTED]. I have lived in the Northern Territory for an accumulative period of 4 years and I call Darwin home. I am deeply concerned that the NT remains the only jurisdiction in Australia without access to VAD, denying Territorians the same end-of-life choices available to all other Australians.

As a health sector professional with experience working in a cancer hospital in Melbourne, I have seen first-hand the positive impact that VAD can have—not only for the individuals who choose it but also for their families. In Victoria, I have witnessed the dignity, relief, and sense of control it offers to those facing terminal illness. I have also seen the immense emotional and physical toll on patients and loved ones when such an option is unavailable.

Access to VAD is about respecting a person's right to make their own medical decisions at the end of life. It is about providing choice, compassion, and dignity in circumstances where suffering can no longer be alleviated through palliative care alone.

I acknowledge that the Northern Territory's geographical challenges and cultural diversity require careful consideration in designing and implementing a VAD framework. However, these factors are not dissimilar to those in Western Australia and Queensland, where VAD has been successfully introduced with appropriate safeguards and cultural consultation.

It is my firm belief that Territorians deserve the same rights, choices, and protections as other Australians when it comes to end-of-life care. Denying access to VAD is denying equality in healthcare.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective on this important issue.

Kind regards,

Ciara O'Brien