

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA VAD](#)
Subject: Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) in the NT - Submission
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To NT Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee,

I, Alison Nawirridj, of [REDACTED], strongly oppose legislating Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) in the NT.

The life of every person is immeasurably valuable and must be treated as such. VAD is very deceptive. VAD offers a "peaceful" and "dignified" death, but the soul of the dying person, under the influence of VAD, would be experiencing great torment. God has determined the number of our days, and if God is excluded from the process of death, the dying person would be deprived of the peace of God. The universal saying of "rest in peace" would not be attainable.

The laws governing VAD could be used to eliminate people who are no longer deemed "useful", or who are in the way of family members wanting to pursue their own ends. Elderly people could be wrongfully labelled as having reduced cognitive functions and feel overpowered by the younger generation who lack respect for their eldership.

Aboriginal people are often already suspicious of the motives of our current health system and fear that their lives are disposable. This fear would be heightened if VAD was introduced into the health system.

Old and/or sick people could feel pressured into accepting VAD if they believe that they have become a burden to family and community.

People with mental health issues, especially depression and anxiety, often have feelings that make them want to end their lives. These people should be given counseling, and never given access to VAD, even if they are desiring it. Mental health can change quickly once the sufferer changes their mindset and self-belief. This is especially true of teenagers and young adults.

VAD should never be an option in our health system. VAD undermines the ethical standards in the practice of medicine, especially the Hippocratic Oath.

Yours faithfully,
Alison Nawirridj