

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA VAD](#)
Subject: SUBMISSION - Voluntary Assisted Dying
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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to make clear my opposition to VAD.

As shown in other countries, allowing “Voluntary Assisted Dying” would place the NT at the top of a slippery slope.

For years euthanasia has been legal in the Netherlands, with more than 5% of deaths there now due to “legalised suicide”.

The Dutch are now rethinking their laws, due to the huge increase in young people requesting death due to their mental anguish! People who are depressed or troubled, yet have their whole life in front of them seeking to, or being coerced to die!

This is madness.

There are numerous cases of euthanasia being used to free up scarce hospital beds, not to mention ill or elderly people being pressured by family to end their life to stop being a “burden”, or even to hurry an inheritance.

Canada is another country that has had legal dying legislation for some time. Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) has taken around 60,000 Canadians since its introduction.

There is a well-documented case of a Paralympian fighting for a wheelchair or ramp in their home, being offered MAID as a solution!

It is also on record that the Canadian Government actually considers voluntary dying a much more economical alternative to caring for the poor, sick or disabled!

How do we think these same issues will not arise here?? Are we somehow more wise or enlightened than these countries – I think not.

Suicide, legal or not is a very wrong and foreign concept to Indigenous Territorians, and these are the very people who would be very much at risk of VAD going wrong or being mis used or abused, as they form

a huge majority of medical cases in the Territory.

Disabled Territorians are another group who will feel the pressure if VAD is approved. The Canadian example already proves that disabled people are pressured by these laws.

Overseas examples also show how the initial safeguards in place with new legislation are inevitably watered down and relaxed in time, so there are less and less barriers to death.

Please keep the Territory free from this ill-advised, dangerous and unnecessary legislation, and instead increase our emphasis on good preventative healthcare and making the best of the lives that we as Territorians have been given!

You, the Committee Members have a **huge** responsibility, and believe it or not, you **will** be held accountable for your decisions in this matter.

Very sincerely,

Andrew Reynolds

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]