

VAD – submission Royelene Hill

VAD is a choice wisely made by people who have the right to die with dignity over someone else's choice to keep them alive, suffering and anxious because of religious and Indigenous cultural beliefs and whatever reasons manifest in the minds of politicians and others.

It is not their decision, listen to the people of the NT before dismissing this very significant, merciful cry from Territorians who have contributed to, and lived their lives in the NT.

Listen with passion!

Has it become too political for all the wrong reasons? As we so well know, a Private Member's Bill in NSW carried the voice of one man as he overturned, ignored the voice of dying Territorians. Many in the NT have suffered as the result of this decision.

I ask myself, why so much opposition? I cannot think of one reason for VAD not being legalised in the NT. It started here! Other states have made it legal. Why them and not us?

Many Territorians believe the reason is obvious: Indigenous people's fear and their misunderstanding of VAD along with cultural beliefs.

I am hopeful that our present Government isn't looking at this as a decision based on politics to retain power and not lose votes in Indigenous communities. Fear is a great antagonist.

This decision should not be based on anything other than the relief of insufferable pain and the unbearable existence of people who need that relief to die with their dignity intact.

It all comes down to entering this debate without personal beliefs or hidden agendas. It will take perceptive logic, empathy and much self-soul searching to arrive at a heartfelt decision.

Decide with humane passion!

Yours sincerely,
Royelene Hill