

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA VAD](#)
Subject: My second submission to the VAD Committee
Date: Friday, 29 August 2025 3:06:58 PM

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To the Northern Territory Voluntary Assisted Dying Committee,
(This is my second response to the committee: the first is number 88)

Answer to the Head Question

The Inquiry asks: *Do you agree to make a law for Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) in the Northern Territory?*

My answer is: **No.**

Introduction

I write this because of what the Bible teaches. All life belongs to God. He alone decides when life begins and ends. The Bible says: *“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it”* (Psalm 24:1).

No government can be neutral on questions of life and death. Every law shows what people believe about right and wrong. The Bible says: *“Fear God and obey his commands. This is the duty of all people”* (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

The government’s role is not to put human choice above God’s rule. The Bible also says: *“The ruler is God’s servant to help you”* (Romans 13:4). Only God has the right to decide the length of our lives.

Engagement with Submissions

Submission 88 (Biblical perspective):

This submission is right to say from the Bible that VAD is wrong. Some may say it is only one view. But God’s Word is not just one opinion. Almighty God is the only ruler, and His Word is final.

Submission 208 (Public Guardian and Trustee):

This government office said people should be able to give “advance consent.” That means deciding now to die later. This is wrong because the Bible says: “A

person's days are decided by God. He has set the limits" (Job 14:5). Life and death are in God's hands, not ours.

Submission 209 (Experience in Indigenous communities):

This submission is important because it speaks about Aboriginal communities. It shows there is a gap between this Inquiry and Indigenous life. The Bible says we must speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves (Proverbs 31:8–9). Justice means protecting the most vulnerable.

Exclusion of Aboriginal Voices

Aboriginal Territorians have not had a fair chance to speak in this Inquiry. Their voices are missing for many reasons:

- **Isolation:** Many live far from meetings or hearings.
- **Language and Literacy:** Many do not read or write English easily. Inquiry documents use difficult words.
- **Communication:** Information is not always in local languages or shared in ways people understand, such as oral traditions.
- **Internet and Access:** Some communities have internet, but not always the tools, knowledge, or trust to use it for government processes.
- **Trust and Culture:** Many Aboriginal people do not trust government systems that have ignored them in the past. Silence should not be seen as consent. Silence does not mean agreement.

The Bible says: *"Defend the weak and the fatherless. Make sure the poor and oppressed are treated fairly"* (Psalm 82:3).

Separation of Church & State is not the same as

Separation of Church & Religion

Some say the church and state should be separate: this is true. But government cannot be separate from belief, from religion. Every law serves someone's god – either the true God of the Bible or a false god. Serving a false god always leads to tyranny. The Bible says: *"Fear God and obey his commandments"* (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

Psalm 2 says rulers sometimes plan against God. To make VAD a law would be to reject God's authority. There is no middle ground. Either the Northern Territory Government obeys Christ, or it stands against Him.

Recommendations

1. **Recognise God's Sovereignty:** The government is God's servant (Romans 13). It must not take control of life and death.
 2. **Protect the Vulnerable:** Do not allow "advance consent," which pretends people can control what only God controls.
 3. **Hear Aboriginal Voices:** Use interpreters, plain language, and visit communities directly. Silence is not consent.
 4. **Do Not Legislate VAD:** Life belongs to God, not to man.
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Conclusion

The silence of Aboriginal Territorians is not agreement. Human choice in life and death is not wisdom but rebellion. The Bible warns rulers: *"You will break them with a rod of iron. You will dash them to pieces like pottery"* (Psalm 2:9). But God also gives blessing: *"Blessed are all who take refuge in Him"* (Psalm 2:12).

The true hope for suffering people is not to speed up death but to look to Christ: *"God will wipe away every tear. There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain"* (Revelation 21:4). The hope for nations is in the Lamb of God, whose healing is promised to all nations (Revelation 22:2).

So, to the Inquiry's question: No, I do not agree to legislate VAD in the Northern Territory. **The Territory's laws must be just and honour God, because the governed and the government answer not only to the people but to Almighty God.**

Yours sincerely,
Anthony Willis

