

From: [Anna Huigen](#)
To: [LA VAD](#)
Subject: Submission to oppose the legislation of VAD in the NT
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Dear NT VAD Inquiry members,
I am writing to strongly oppose the legislation of VAD in the Northern Territory.

I am a registered nurse living and working in the NT, and nursing work is about saving life, not taking it away.

The imposition on NT health staff to participate in VAD should it become legislated in the NT seriously undermines the value and purpose of our work - to help restore or maintain health, not participate in what many would view as accessory to murder ie assist in someone's death.

There are many challenges already that the NT has in regards to poor outcomes in Aboriginal health. VAD would have a significant impact on creating even worse outcomes as VAD is not part of traditional Aboriginal culture and sick Aboriginal people who may already be suspicious of the health system will likely stay well away from hospitals and health services if they think that they may be part of VAD.

It is already difficult enough to get many Aboriginal people especially traditional bush people to their appointments - the legislation of VAD will just create an even bigger barrier to health service uptake.


Another factor to consider is that a large proportion of health professionals in the NT are from Kerala in India, different African countries, and the Phillipines - most of them have Christian faith and values which do not support VAD as human life is viewed as sacred.

There is no reason for VAD in the NT where all people in pain have access to pain relief if they seek it. The funding that would go to VAD would be far better utilised in increasing palliative care services that are culturally relevant.

VAD is another stepping stone in Western culture to devaluing human life. It has not led to good outcomes in Canada and Scandinavia. Let the NT be the one safe haven in Australia where VAD is not legislated.

On a personal note, my mother died from lingering bone cancer as a secondary to breast cancer when I was 14yo. She taught me that suffering can be overcome and never considered ending her life. My mum also taught me that pain and suffering are part of the human condition and makes us stronger and more compassionate people which I believe is true from first hand account.

So please do not legislate for VAD in the Northern Territory and let's value and celebrate life and all it brings instead.

Yours sincerely,
Anna Huigen
Registered Nurse


Sent from my iPhone

Anna Huigen