

From: [Gavin Perry](#)
To: [LA VAD](#)
Subject: Submission on VAD
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Dear Committee members,

I write to express my views on the proposed VAD law in the Northern Territory.

I support the introduction of Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation to help people who are suffering intolerably from a Terminal Illness. Eventually I hope that Dementia may be added to the criteria of eligibility.

Most people do not want to talk about dying, it is a subject that is not easily discussed in our society. Many people of faith oppose it. But for a lot of older people nearing the end of life it becomes a worry, especially if there is thought of pain and suffering.

But those people who are unsure what to do, and get stressed about death, there should be a choice for them to ask to die peacefully at a given time and place of their choosing.

Right now, most people go into palliative care and will be well looked after until their final days, but cannot choose to die.

But some people who have the courage to ask for help, and are sure that they have had enough of struggling to stay alive, should be allowed assistance to end their lives when and where they choose.

In my experience of witnessing the death of three friends in Darwin, I felt profound emotions of love, compassion and humility. There was nothing to be afraid of, except pain and suffering.

With the introduction of Voluntary Assisted Dying there will no longer be pain or suffering or the fear about death. It will be peaceful, gentle and loving.

As for the subjects of administration, accessibility, safety, and monitoring, I am sure that the various legislations already in place elsewhere in the country have plenty of experience with these issues.

The problem for remote access including Aboriginal people who ask for assisted dying exists already in the north of WA and the same in N. Queensland.

Health professionals who are required to assist including nurses and doctors and psychologists and pharmacists can be recruited locally one hopes. I do not believe there will be a great many people in The Territory who will be accessing this.

It would be a good opportunity to legislate with the benefit of other Australians experience.

Sincerely

Gavin Perry

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