

**From:** Calvin [REDACTED]  
**To:** LA VAD  
**Subject:** Voluntary Assisted Dying (is a bad idea) Submission  
**Date:** Sunday, 10 August 2025 11:00:21 PM

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Hi,

My name is Calvin, I live in the territory with my wife Taylor and we both oppose VAD. In short, it will be abused by those seeking to get rid of their parents or remove problematic situations rather than dealing with them as a united front. Ultimately it will weaken families and further wreck the family structure with parents potentially being afraid of their children or getting ill in their later years.

**Question 1: Do you support making VAD legal in the NT?**

No, I do not support making VAD legal in the Northern Territory.

First, wherever these laws are introduced, they almost always expand beyond their original limits, potentially including people with disabilities, dementia, or mental health conditions. This “slippery slope” has been documented overseas and in other Australian states, and it is unrealistic to believe the NT would be immune.

Second, elder abuse and inheritance impatience are already serious and growing problems. Introducing a legal pathway to end life could be exploited by family members, carers, or others under financial or personal pressure. Even if most people act ethically, it only takes a small number of cases for irreversible harm to occur.

Third, the NT’s health system already struggles to provide timely, quality healthcare — especially in remote areas. If VAD is legal, people may feel pressured to choose it simply because other basic services, including pain management and palliative care, are unavailable. Legalisation risks diverting scarce resources away from life-saving and life-improving care.

**Question 2: What eligibility criteria should a person need to meet before they can access VAD?**

If VAD were ever legalised (which I oppose), strict safeguards would be essential:

- At least 18 years old.
- Mentally competent to consent.
- **Diagnosed with a terminal illness with less than 6 months to live.**
- Experiencing intolerable suffering directly related to the terminal diagnosis.
- Demonstrated access to adequate palliative and aged care for a minimum period.
- Mandatory mental health assessment to rule out depression or other treatable mental health conditions.
- Alternative support services offered before VAD approval.
- Family informed and consulted in all cases.

**Question 3: How could the NT make sure that an eligible person can access VAD in a safe and effective way, including people living in remote areas, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?**

If VAD were ever legalised, I believe it should not be made available in remote communities where safe oversight and secure handling of life-ending substances cannot be guaranteed. For Aboriginal Territorians, there is also a serious risk of reduced trust in healthcare services — potentially worsening already poor health outcomes.

**Question 4: How could the NT monitor the process to ensure VAD is delivered safely and effectively?**

Oversight would need to be independent, with members including people who oppose VAD to ensure rigorous scrutiny. All requests should be logged in a transparent, online and auditable system to ensure mandatory waiting periods are not circumvented. Detailed statistics, including any instances of misuse, should be made publicly available.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Calvin.