

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA VAD](#)
Subject: Voluntary Assisted Dying
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 11:15:24 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

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Dear Sir / Madam

Statement of Opposition to Voluntary Assisted Dying Legislation – NT

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a long-time resident of [REDACTED] and have worked as a Medical Doctor in the NT for many years. I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) legislation.

This Bill is dangerous, and it puts our most vulnerable at risk. The problems are serious and cannot be ignored:

- **Risk of coercion:** Elderly, disabled, poor, and socially isolated people are open to pressure. I have seen this first-hand: a daughter told her dying mother, *“Don’t worry Mum, I have the say in prolonging your life, not you.”* The mother—distressed and terrified—asked how to take her daughter off “the list” immediately. This is the kind of abuse that VAD opens the door to.
- **Loss of trust in doctors:** Patients must never fear that a doctor will recommend death over care. Once trust is gone, the doctor–patient relationship collapses.
- **The slippery slope is real:** We have already seen government cutbacks in NDIS, even removing children to save money. How long before the same financial pressures push people toward assisted dying as a “cheaper option”?
- **It devalues life:** How can we run suicide prevention campaigns while the government legalises suicide for the sick and vulnerable?
- **Sanctity of life matters:** It is recognised across cultures, faiths, and communities. This law undermines it.

The better path is clear:

- Empower doctors to properly manage pain, even if this carries side effects.
- Expand and strengthen palliative care across the Territory.
- Allow pets to visit and comfort their owners in hospital.
- Encourage spiritual and community support at the end of life.

Voluntary Assisted Dying is not compassion—it is abandonment. The NT should lead in protecting life, not in cutting it short.

Yours Sincerely

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