

“Dying People Don't Have Time To Wait.”

1. Do you support making VAD legal in the NT? The people of our great Northern Territory are my neighbours, my friends, and my fellow Australians. Our friends, neighbours, and fellow Australians do deserve the legal right to choose Voluntary Assisted Dying for themselves as it is with the rest of the country. VAD provides a peaceful release from incredible pain and suffering. That ending needs to be given to each and every Australian citizen. Voluntary Assisted Dying allows an eligible person, already dying, the right to do so safely with medical support and care.

“The Northern Territory is now the only jurisdiction in Australia without a VAD law. In 2023, the NT Government assembled an Expert Advisory Panel to consider the legalisation of VAD in the Territory. The panel recommended the NT government draft a VAD bill to bring the Territory in line with the rest of the country. the NT Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro says making VAD legal is **not a priority** for her government. **The truth of the matter is, “Dying people don't have time to wait.”**

2. What eligibility criteria should a person need to meet before they can access VAD? Voluntary Assisted Dying is an end-of-life option available to residents, with an Australian citizenship, throughout Australia, except the Northern Territory, who are terminally ill, suffering intolerably and meet other strict criteria. Voluntary Assisted Dying allows an eligible person already dying, the right to do so safely with medical support and care.

General guidelines:

Be **18 years of age or older**. Children 17 years of age and under are not eligible • Have a sickness that causes you a lot of pain. This pain could be physical, psychological, social or emotional.

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?

With the health services that the NT currently have in place for Territorians, and where services can't be provided in remote communities, patients must travel to centres such as Darwin and Alice Springs for treatment. When VAD is including in the NT health services, the results will be the same.

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

According to the 2024 Expert Panel a recommendation was made that an independent statutory body (Review Board) should be established to monitor compliance in every case and to review the operation of the Act. The functions, membership and responsibilities of the Review Board should be as outlined in Chapter 6 of the 2024 Expert Panel Report.”