

LEGAL AND CONSITUTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Verbal Submission to the Voluntary Assisted Dying Inquiry

Name of submitter: Kristine Frances Smith	Date: 11/08/2025
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SUBMISSION

I as an older person request, with urgency, that voluntary assisted dying (VAD) is accessible as soon as possible as we already voted on this years ago and there was overwhelming support. I can't understand why we have to go through another inquiry, the previous law should automatically be put in place. Many other people living in the Northern Territory now, and I am sure the majority, wish to have this option if they no longer feel they can live a comfortable life.

People with cancer, dementia, and any other debilitating medical conditions that no longer give you a quality of life should be eligible. Quantity is not about quality. It prolongs way too much suffering for those who wish to end their life peacefully without pain. That includes most people.

It is up to the individual. I already have an end of life care plan, my children know what I want so my next of kin knows what has to be done.

Before people get to the stage of dementia they should be able to choose. There is no use leaving it to when someone can longer function. I do not personally want to live if my faculties aren't there mentally or physically.

The eligibility criteria should be expanded as outlined above to reduce suffering for the patient and their family.

I don't want to go into palliative, it is degrading for most people. I have been an active person all my life, if you take that away then what is left?

Another inquiry is not needed, the Northern Territory was the first state in the world to have it, but it was taken away via a private member's bill informed by their religious views. I think that was wrong. It is a waste of taxpayer money to have another inquiry. We can tweak the existing law on behalf of the patient not on behalf of religion.