



14 August 2025

Voluntary Assisted Dying  
Review Board

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Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA  
Chair, Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

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Dear Dr Rahman MLA

### Submission to Parliamentary Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying

On behalf of the Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) Review Board of South Australia (the Review Board), thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Northern Territory's Parliamentary Inquiry into VAD.

Appointed by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the Review Board's functions are set out in the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act (SA) 2021* (the Act). These functions include oversight of operation of VAD in South Australia, promoting compliance with the Act, supporting continuous improvement and providing advice on the Act's operation.

Since the Act commenced on 31 January 2023, VAD has been available as a safe, compassionate, and legally regulated end of life choice for eligible South Australians. Since commencement to 30 June 2025, 1139 South Australians have made a first request to access the VAD pathway, with 777 VAD permits issued.

The Review Board encourages feedback from the community, with feedback consistently highlighting the high quality of VAD services and the importance of VAD as an end of life option in South Australia.

To ensure safe and compliant operation of VAD across the State, the Review Board conducts a detailed compliance review of each individual patient's VAD pathway, completing over 900 reviews since commencement of VAD. These reviews demonstrate a high level of compliance with the legislation, a testament to the safe systems, processes and people involved in VAD on a day to day basis.

Insights from these reviews, along with sector engagement, have informed the Review Board's Strategic Plan for 2025 – 2027 (Attachment 1). The Strategic Plan identifies five key strategic priorities to support the delivery of VAD while minimising risks to both individuals and ongoing sustainability of the service:

1. A sustainable VAD workforce
2. Greater awareness of VAD as an end of life choice
3. All eligible people to be able to access VAD according to their needs with barriers of access minimised
4. Continuous improvement of the VAD system
5. Research on VAD

The information gathered by the Review Board will help inform the legislated five-year review of the Act, required under Section 129 of the Act. This review must be completed between 31 January 2027 and 31 January 2028, the fourth and fifth anniversaries of the Act's commencement. The Review Board notes that the South Australian Act was largely modelled on Victoria's *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act (Vic) 2017* and is consequently closely monitoring the implementation of recommendations from Victoria's five-year review published earlier this year.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to your Inquiry. Should the Committee require more information, you may wish to refer to the Review Board's quarterly and annual reports available on the SA Health website. These reports provide up-to-date data and insights into the operation of VAD in South Australia.

Yours sincerely



**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MELANIE TURNER**  
Presiding Member  
Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board of South Australia