

From: [Nikki](#)
To: [LA VAD](#)
Subject: NT VAD Submission
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My name is Nikki Bennett and my postcode is [REDACTED]

1. Yes I support making VAD legal again in the first place in the world that had it. The expert advisory panel commissioned by the previous NT Government recommended that VAD be brought back. Let's not waste much more money when it found that 73 percent of Territorians believed a person should be able to choose when they die. Palliative care can help and be part of the journey but not all pain can be eased.

I was born here in the NT, have lived most of my life here and hope to die here when my time comes. I don't want to have to move to another state or territory if I have a terminal illness so I can have my family and friends around me when I decide I want to go.

The opposers can make the decision for themselves to not use VAD, but I don't want them to be able to make the decision for me, which they would have if VAD is not made legal again in the NT.

2. I believe the eligibility criteria should be:

- An incurable illness or disease with no time limit because of how a person can quickly deteriorate.
- that this includes dementia, with dementia covered both when the person is still able to make their own decisions but also covered by an Advanced Care Directive in case they become unable to fully make their own decisions.

3. The NT could make sure that an eligible person could access VAD in a safe and effective way by allowing doctors to broach the topic with the patient without the patient needing to bring it up first.

Telehealth would need to be allowed to be used for those who don't want to or can't travel.

Interpreters would be a great help.

Visiting doctors such as specialists must be supported to support patients.

The Patient Assistant Transport Scheme would also be of use if someone needed to travel for an appointment during the checking of eligibility.

Doctors who had a moral objection would be obligated to refer patients to a service similar to the NSW Care Navigator Service so the patient could get help to find another doctor.

Aged care facilities and hospitals must allow VAD.

Doctors should also be able to administer the medication if a person is physically unable to do it, is eligible for it and has requested it.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, consultation with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations would be needed.

4. The NT could look to the other states and territories to see what has worked regarding monitoring the process.

Regards
Nikki