



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

Associated Minutes of Proceedings

Voluntary Assisted Dying in the Northern Territory – Final Report

September 2025





LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 5

10.00 am, Monday 19 May 2025
Litchfield Room

Present: Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly

Secretariat: Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:
The Minutes of Meeting No. 4 of 24 March 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

3. REVIEW OF HISTORICAL REGULATIONS

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Young seconded that:

The Chair write to the Attorney-General requesting that the inquiry into the review of historical regulations be suspended until the conclusion of the inquiry into voluntary assisted dying.

Question put and passed.

4. SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

Mr Young moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The Committee forward the legal advice regarding the West Arnhem Regional Council (Jabiru Town) By-Laws 2024 (No. 28 of 2024) to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development for consideration and comment by 27 June 2025.

Question put and passed.

5. VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

Mx McNamara expressed deep concerns regarding the process and timeframe for the inquiry, particularly in relation to the ability of the Committee to ethically and respectfully engage with remote communities.

Dr Rahman noted the concerns of Mx McNamara, and communicated that as Chair, he was committed to conducting the enquiry ethically and respectfully, within the terms of reference. He further expressed his hope that all Members would work cooperatively and constructively together, to agree on suitable scope and process for the inquiry, with a view to progressing VAD.

He asked that Members fully avail themselves for the duration of inquiry hearings, be mindful to declare conflicts of interests if relevant, and consider substitution of committee membership if necessary before the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee discussed the conduct of the inquiry, including potential hearing locations to be discussed further at its next meeting.

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Chair write to the Co-Chairs of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Independent Expert Advisory Panel, Hon Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO and Mr Duncan McConnel SC, to invite them to privately brief the Committee at its next meeting.

Question put and passed.

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Young seconded that:

The Chair write to the four Aboriginal Land Councils and the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory to advise them of the inquiry referral and tentative parameters, before the next Committee meeting.

Question put and passed.

6. NEXT MEETING

Dr Rahman proposed the next meeting be held at 10.00 am, Monday 2 June 2025, ahead of the currently next scheduled meeting of 10.00 am, Monday 28 July 2025, to exclusively discuss the VAD inquiry. The Committee was not unanimously available at that time. The Committee instead unanimously agreed to meet on 10.00 am, Monday 7 July 2025.

Meeting closed at 12.10 pm.



Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 6

10.00 am Wednesday 28 May 2025
Litchfield Room and via Microsoft Teams

Present:	Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Apologies	Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly
Secretariat:	Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 5 of 19 May 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Chair write to the four Aboriginal Land Councils and the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory as per the draft correspondence to invite them to privately brief the Committee at its next meeting.

Question put and passed.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee discussed options to regarding the planning and logistics of its Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying.

Mrs Carlson moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The Chair write to the agency facilitating BushTel to request a private briefing to inform the Committee on undertaking remote consultation.

Question put and passed.

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Chair, on the Secretariat's advice, select subject matter experts on voluntary assisted dying to provide the Committee with a private briefing at its next meeting.

Question put and passed.

Mx McNamara moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Secretariat prepare a proposal for the Committee to address training needs, including options and providers, for Members to undertake training subject to their individual availability prior the Committee's next meeting.

Question put and passed.

4. NEXT MEETING

10 am on Monday, 7 July 2025.

Meeting closed at 10.29 am.



Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 7

10.00 am Monday 7 July 2025
Litchfield Room and via Microsoft Teams

Present: Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly (via Microsoft Teams)

Secretariat: Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:
The Minutes of Meeting No. 6 of 28 May 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

3. PRIVATE BRIEFINGS – VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY

Voluntary Assisted Dying Expert

The Committee heard from Dr Geetanjali Lamba (via Microsoft Teams).

The witness withdrew.

Former Co-Chairs of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Independent Expert Panel

The Committee heard from the former Co-Chairs of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Independent Expert Panel, Hon Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO and Mr Duncan McConnel SC.

The witnesses withdrew.

Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development

The Committee heard from Mr Leslie Manda – Executive Director, Local Government and Community Development, and Mr Brett Beaton – Director Remote Information and Coordination.

The witnesses withdrew.

4. INQUIRY PLAN – VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY

Short Consultation Guide

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:
The Committee approve the Short Consultation Guide.

Question put and passed.

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee direct the Secretariat to work with the Aboriginal Interpreter Service to develop the Short Consultation Guide for use and distribution in remote Aboriginal communities with the Chair's oversight for public release.

Question put and passed.

Mrs Carlson moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The Committee direct the Secretariat to work with translation services to develop the Short Consultation Guide for culturally and linguistically diverse communities with the Chair's oversight for public release.

Question put and passed.

Promoting the Inquiry

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The Committee write to all stakeholders in the key stakeholder list (along with any other stakeholders proposed by the Committee at its next meeting) to invite them to make a submission to the Inquiry, and to invite other interested stakeholders to contribute.

Question put and passed.

Mr Young moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Committee promote the Inquiry via the proposed methods of distribution, including the Committee website, social media, radio, and regional networks.

Question put and passed.

Risks and mitigation strategies

The Committee discussed the potential risks and mitigation strategies it could use in relation to remote consultation.

Mr Young moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

Given the information the Committee has received on remote consultation and the constraints and risks associated with it, the Committee write to the Attorney-General to ask for an extension of time to deliver its Inquiry report to adequately undertake consultation with remote and regional communities.

The Committee divided.

For	Against
Mr Young	Dr Rahman
Mx McNamara	Mr Kerle
	Mrs Carlson

Question negatived.

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The Committee note the possible constraints and mitigation strategies for consulting with remote communities.

Question put and passed.

Consultation Paper

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee approve in principle the draft Consultation Paper, noting it will not be publicly distributed until it has been discussed and subject to final review at the Committee's next meeting.

Question put and passed.

Inquiry Plan

The Committee discussed the proposed Inquiry Plan, including the proposed timeline, modes for evidence gathering, and methods of distribution. The Secretariat informed the Committee that, with the Chair's approval, Dr Geetanjali Lamba has been appointed as a specialist advisor to assist the Committee with its Inquiry.

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Young seconded that:

The Committee endorse the proposed Inquiry Plan as discussed by the Committee.

Question put and passed.

Remote Hearings

Mr Young moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee approve the proposed remote hearing locations and dates on the condition that this may be subject to changes based on community willingness, availability, interest and resources.

Question put and passed.

The Committee discussed the option of using 'substitute' Members and establishing a subcommittee to enhance the prospect of the Committee having a quorum at all remote hearings.

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Young seconded that:

The Committee agree to all Inquiry hearings and consultation meetings to be recorded, where agreed to by the witness, as evidence formally gathered for the purpose of the preparation of a Hansard transcript and published, with exceptions decided by the Committee on a case-by-case basis.

Question put and passed.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair informed the Committee that Dr Linda Swan, CEO of Go Gentle Australia, had offered to meet with the Committee to provide information about the experience of Voluntary Assisted Dying in other jurisdictions.

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee write to the CEO of Go Gentle Australia, Dr Linda Swan, to invite her to privately brief the Committee on 28 July 2025.

Question put and passed.

6. NEXT MEETING

12.30 pm, Wednesday 9 July 2025.

Meeting closed at 5.15 pm.



Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 8

12.30 pm Wednesday 9 July 2025
Microsoft Teams

Present: Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly

Secretariat: Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:
The Minutes of Meeting No. 7 of 7 July 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. DRAFT CORRESPONDENCE

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Young seconded that:

The draft correspondence be forwarded to Dr Linda Swan, CEO of Go Gentle Australia.

Question put and passed.

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Young seconded that:

The draft correspondence be sent to stakeholders to invite them to make a submission and invite other interested stakeholders to contribute

Question put and passed.

3. INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

Mr Young moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee write to additional stakeholders in the key stakeholder list to invite them to make a submission to the Inquiry, and to invite other interested stakeholders to contribute, those stakeholders including:

- Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation NT
- Buddhist Society NT
- C3 Church Darwin
- Darwin Baptist Church.
- Glory City Church Darwin
- Greek Orthodox Church
- Gumatj Corporation
- Hillsong Church Darwin
- Holy Spirit Catholic Church

- Islamic Society Palmerston
- NT Ambulance and Paramedics Union
- NT Jewish Community Association (NTJCA)
- Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church Palmerston
- Pharmacy Guild of Australia NT Branch
- Potters House Christian Church
- Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation
- Sikh Association Northern Territory
- St John Ambulance NT
- St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Parish
- United Muslims of the NT (UMNT).

Question put and passed.

Mrs Carlson moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

That the Committee approve the draft Consultation Paper for public release on 14 July 2025.

Question put and passed.

The Chair noted that the Secretariat may make minor changes to the document to correct any typographical and grammatical errors prior to public release.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretariat informed the Committee that an Employee Assistance Program service will be available to Members and staff to safeguard against vicarious trauma.

The Chair asked the Secretariat to investigate legal advisors who could, if the Committee recommends adoption, provide drafting instructions for model legislation to give effect to VAD in the NT as per the final Term of Reference.

5. NEXT MEETING

10.00 am Wednesday 23 July 2025.

Meeting closed at 1.05 pm.



Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 9

Wednesday 23 July 2025
Microsoft Teams

Present: Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly

Secretariat: Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

The Meeting commenced at 10.04 am.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Young moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 8 of 9 July 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Mx McNamara moved, and Mr Kerle seconded that the Committee note the correspondence.

Question put and passed.

3. PRIVATE BRIEFING – VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY

The Chair informed the Committee that Professor the Hon Jill Hennessy GAICD was unavailable to brief the Committee at the meeting and the Committee noted her apologies.

4. APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL ADVISOR – CONSIDERATION

The Committee discussed the option of appointing Professor Ben White as Legal Advisor.

Mr Young moved, and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee approve the appointment of Professor Ben White as Legal Advisor for its Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying, subject to the following terms:

- The primary scope of the work will be to develop drafting instructions for model legislation to give effect to VAD in the NT.
- The complete scope of the work to be undertaken will be as per the proposal dated 18 July 2025.
- The proposed timeline for the scope of the work will be as per the proposal dated 18 July 2025.
- The project team will be as per the proposal dated 18 July 2025.
- The work will be subject to the price of delivery as per the proposal dated 18 July 2025.

- The work will be subject to the Committee's direction and ongoing engagement with the project team.

Question put and passed.

Mrs Carlson moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

Professor White and the QUT Team commence work based on the Committee's 2025 Consultation Paper, the 2024 Expert Panel Report, and the former *Rights of the Terminally Ill Act 1995* (NT) as the basis to build and complete drafting instructions for model legislation to give effect to VAD in the NT.

Question put and passed.

5. DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC HEARING IN DARWIN – VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY

The Committee discussed potential witnesses for its public hearing scheduled on 5 August 2025.

Mr Young moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The Committee invite the following organisations to attend a public hearing in Darwin on 5 August 2025:

- NT Health
- Palliative Care NT
- Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT)
- Pharmacy Guild of Australia
- Australian Medical Association NT.

Question put and passed.

The Committee noted that additional witnesses for the hearing will be considered by the Committee at its next meeting on 28 July 2025.

6. SUBMISSIONS UPDATE – VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY

Mr Young moved, and Mr Kerle seconded that the Committee:

- Publish all submissions received prior to 23 July 2025 (with personal information redacted) on its website.
- Direct the Secretariat to publish all future submissions on the Committee's website (with personal information redacted) when they are received, unless the submission has been received as confidential and/or contains adverse comments. In this instance, the submissions will be added to the agenda for the next Committee meeting for the Members' consideration.

Question put and passed.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee requested the Secretariat provide an update on the progress of producing translated materials for its Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying at its next meeting on 28 July 2025, including:

- work with the Aboriginal Interpreter Service in developing translated materials; and
- the feasibility of translating the Consultation Paper into foreign languages.

The Committee directed the Secretariat to invite its specialist advisors, Dr Lamba and Professor White (and his Queensland University of Technology team) to attend its next meeting on 28 July 2025.

The Chair informed the Committee of his intention to consider a draft Interim Report for its Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying at its next meeting on 28 July 2025.

8. NEXT MEETING

10 am on Monday 28 July 2025.

Meeting closed at 11.14 am.



**Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 10

10.00 am Monday 28 July 2025
Litchfield Room

Present: Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly

Secretariat: Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

The meeting commenced at 10.05 am.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs Carlson moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 10 of Wednesday 23 July 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence noted.

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The Committee write to the Tiwi Islands Regional Council, the East Arnhem Regional Council, and Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation to thank them for their correspondence.

Question put and passed.

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The Committee write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development to thank him for his correspondence and to note that no further action is required.

Question put and passed.

4. SPECIALIST ADVISOR – DR GEETANJALI LAMBA

The Committee was briefed by Dr Geetanjali Lamba and provided responses to question on notice by Members.

5. SPECIALIST ADVISOR – QUT TEAM

The Committee was briefed by Professor Ben White, Dr Madeleine Archer, Dr Katrine Del Villar, and Katherine Waller.

6. PRIVATE BRIEFING – VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY

The Committee heard from Dr Linda Swan, CEO of Go Gentle Australia.

The witness withdrew.

Mr Young left the meeting at approximately 10.55 am.

7. TRANSLATED MATERIALS – VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee note the progress of producing translated materials for its inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying.

Question put and passed.

8. CONSULTATION PAPER UPDATE – VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee publish the information contained in Briefing Note 10a on the Committee website as a corrigendum to the Consultation Paper.

Question put and passed.

9. INTERIM REPORT – VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY

Mr Young returned to the meeting at 11.32 am.

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report, *Voluntary Assisted Dying in the Northern Territory – First Interim Report*, for tabling in the Legislative Assembly during the July 2025 sitting week, with an amendment to remove Santa Teresa as a potential hearing location.

Question put and passed.

10. PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE – VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY

The Committee discussed the proposed remote hearing schedule and noted that it may undertake additional consultation in the Roper Gulf region, as per correspondence received from Roper Gulf Council dated 25 July 2025, circulated at the meeting. The Committee also discussed an opportunity to consult in Gunbalanya on 18 or 19 August 2025.

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Committee approve the proposed remote hearing schedule, noting that it may be subject to further changes based on community willingness and revised availability.

Question put and passed.

Mr Young and Mx McNamara noted their concerns regarding the timeframe for the Inquiry and the ability of remote communities to fully engage with the process.

Mr Young moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Committee publish hearing locations on its website.

Question put and passed.

Mx McNamara moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Committee Members confirm their individual availability and attendance for remote hearings with the Secretariat to establish quorum and enable the booking of transport, catering and accommodation.

Question put and passed.

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee invite the Coroner's Court to a public hearing in Darwin on 5 August 2025.

Question put and passed.

Mr Young moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Committee invite Professor the Hon Jill Hennessy GAICD to a public hearing in Darwin on 5 August 2025.

Question put and passed.

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee liaise with the Secretariat to provide potential additional witnesses with lived VAD experience to speak to the Committee.

Question put and passed.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

12. NEXT MEETING

9.00 am, Tuesday 5 August 2025.

Meeting closed at 12.05 pm.



Dr Tanzil Rahman
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 10

10.00 am Monday 28 July 2025

Litchfield Room

Present: Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly

Secretariat: Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

The meeting commenced at 10.05 am.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs Carlson moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 10 of Wednesday 23 July 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence noted.

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The Committee write to the Tiwi Islands Regional Council, the East Arnhem Regional Council, and Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation to thank them for their correspondence.

Question put and passed.

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The Committee write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development to thank him for his correspondence and to note that no further action is required.

Question put and passed.

4. SPECIALIST ADVISOR – DR GEETANJALI LAMBA

The Committee was briefed by Dr Geetanjali Lamba and provided responses to question on notice by Members.

5. SPECIALIST ADVISOR – QUT TEAM

The Committee was briefed by Professor Ben White, Dr Madeleine Archer, Dr Katrine Del Villar, and Katherine Waller.

6. PRIVATE BRIEFING – VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY

The Committee heard from Dr Linda Swan, CEO of Go Gentle Australia.

The witness withdrew.

Mr Young left the meeting at approximately 10.55 am.

7. TRANSLATED MATERIALS – VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee note the progress of producing translated materials for its inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying.

Question put and passed.

8. CONSULTATION PAPER UPDATE – VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee publish the information contained in Briefing Note 10a on the Committee website as a corrigendum to the Consultation Paper.

Question put and passed.

9. INTERIM REPORT – VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY

Mr Young returned to the meeting at 11.32 am.

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report, *Voluntary Assisted Dying in the Northern Territory – First Interim Report*, for tabling in the Legislative Assembly during the July 2025 sitting week, with an amendment to remove Santa Teresa as a potential hearing location.

Question put and passed.

10. PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE – VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY

The Committee discussed the proposed remote hearing schedule and noted that it may undertake additional consultation in the Roper Gulf region, as per correspondence received from Roper Gulf Council dated 25 July 2025, circulated at the meeting. The Committee also discussed an opportunity to consult in Gunbalanya on 18 or 19 August 2025.

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Committee approve the proposed remote hearing schedule, noting that it may be subject to further changes based on community willingness and revised availability.

Question put and passed.

Mr Young and Mx McNamara noted their concerns regarding the timeframe for the Inquiry and the ability of remote communities to fully engage with the process.

Mr Young moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Committee publish hearing locations on its website.

Question put and passed.

Mx McNamara moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Committee Members confirm their individual availability and attendance for remote hearings with the Secretariat to establish quorum and enable the booking of transport, catering and accommodation.

Question put and passed.

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee invite the Coroner's Court to a public hearing in Darwin on 5 August 2025.

Question put and passed.

Mr Young moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Committee invite Professor the Hon Jill Hennessy GAICD to a public hearing in Darwin on 5 August 2025.

Question put and passed.

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee liaise with the Secretariat to provide potential additional witnesses with lived VAD experience to speak to the Committee.

Question put and passed.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

12. NEXT MEETING

9.00 am, Tuesday 5 August 2025.

Meeting closed at 12.05 pm.



Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 11

11.00 am, Tuesday 5 August 2025
Litchfield Room

Present: Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff

Apologies: Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly

Secretariat: Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

The meeting commenced at 11.12 am.

1. PUBLIC HEARING – INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING
Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT

The Committee heard from the following witnesses from the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT:

- Dr John Paterson, Chief Executive Officer
- Ms Tessa Snowdon, Senior Policy Manager (via Microsoft Teams)

The witnesses withdrew.

Australian Medical Association NT

The Committee heard from Dr John Zorbas, President of the Australian Medical Association NT.

The witness withdrew.

Ms Judy Dent

The Committee heard from Ms Judy Dent.

The witness withdrew

Mr Wayne Wood

The Committee heard from Mr Wayne Wood.

The witness withdrew.

NT Health

The Committee heard from the following witnesses from NT Health:

- Mr Chris Hosking, Chief Executive Officer
- Dr Paul Burgess, Acting Chief Health Officer
- Dr Jeremy Chin, Chief Medical Officer

- Dr Kane Vellar, clinical subject matter expert and former member of the VAD Independent Expert Panel.

The witnesses withdrew.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs Carlson moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 10 of 28 July 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Mx McNamara moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Committee note the correspondence.

Question put and passed.

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee write to Roper Gulf Council to respond to the request for extensive community consultation in the region and accept their invitation to assist with the consultation.

Question put and passed.

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The Committee write to Maningrida Local Organisations to:

- Thank them for their correspondence and consideration of the Committee's request.
- Note that it is not an appropriate time to consult in Maningrida as significant funerals have had a deep impact on the community.
- Accept their request for a small delegation of Board representatives from the organisations to travel to Darwin to meet directly with the Committee and ask that they liaise with the Secretariat to arrange a suitable time.

Question put and passed.

The Committee noted that Professor Jill Hennessy was unavailable to attend the public hearing on 5 August 2025 and had asked for alternative times. The Committee instructed the Secretariat to liaise with Professor Hennessy to arrange an alternate time.

The Committee noted that Ms Judy Dent had provided a position statement prior to appearing at the public hearing. The Committee directed the Secretariat to ask whether the document could be regarded as a submission to its Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying.

4. TRANSLATED MATERIALS – INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

The Committee received an update from the Secretariat on the progress of the Aboriginal Interpreter Service recordings in Aboriginal languages.

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee note the rescript document from the Aboriginal Interpreter Service and that it is satisfied with the progress, manner and form of the script.

Question put and passed.

5. VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY EXPERT ADVISOR BRIEFING – DR GEETANJALI LAMBA

The Committee was briefed by Dr Lamba. The Committee requested Dr Lamba provide a written summary of the issues discussed.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The Committee direct the Secretariat to liaise with ABC News Darwin about covering the upcoming community consultation for its Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying on the condition that the Committee reserves the right to approve filming and photography.

Question put and passed.

7. NEXT MEETING

7.00 am on Wednesday 6 August 2025, Ngukurr

The meeting concluded at 5.33 pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr Tanzil Rahman', with a large loop at the start and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA

Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 12

7.00 am, Wednesday 6 August 2025
Various Locations, Ngukurr

Present:	Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly
Secretariat:	Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Interpreter:	Ms Melissa Wurramarra (Aboriginal Interpreter Service)

The meeting opened at 7.00 am.

1. SITE VISIT AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

Meeting with St Matthew's Anglican Church

The Committee met with representatives from St Matthew's Anglican Church, including:

- Reverends Majorie and William Hall, Deacons-in-Charge
- Reverend Craig Rogers, Deacon
- 25 parishioners.

Community Consultation

The Committee held a community drop-in session at the Roper Gulf Council offices in Ngukurr. The Committee met with four individuals, including Margaret George, Roberta Abajee, and Devita.

Meeting with Roper Gulf Council

The Committee met with representatives from Roper Gulf Council, including:

- Cristie Greer, Programs Manager, Aged Care Services (via Microsoft Teams)
- Nikole Giles-Dickinson, Clinical Aged Care Nurse (Rural and Remote) (via Microsoft Teams)
- Hyeran Kim (Linda), Aged Care and Disability Coordinator (Ngukurr).

2. NEXT MEETING

7.00 am on Thursday, 7 August 2025, Borroloola.

The meeting concluded at 6.00 pm.

Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 13

7.00 am, Thursday 7 August 2025
Various Locations, Borroloola

Present:	Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly
Secretariat:	Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Interpreter:	Ms Bernadette Nethercott (Aboriginal Interpreter Service)

The meeting opened at 7.00 am.

1. SITE VISIT AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

Meeting with Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Indigenous Corporation

The Committee met with representatives from Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Indigenous Corporation, including:

- Brian Hume, Deputy Chairperson
- Nikita Baker, Executive Assistant
- Shirley Simon, Director, Mumathumburu Homeland
- Christine Anderson, Manager, Malandari Aged Care Facility
- Deanna Laney, staff, Malandari Aged Care Facility.

Site Visit at Malandari Aged Care Facility

The Committee visited the Malandari Aged Care Facility.

Meeting with Borroloola Local Authority

The Committee met with the Borroloola Local Authority, including Local Authority Members:

- Councillor Samuel Evans, Local Authority
- Donald Garner, Local Authority
- Trish Elmy, Local Authority
- Mike Longton, Local Authority
- David Hurst, Chief Executive Officer, Roper Gulf Council
- Cindy Haddow, General Manager Corporate Services and Sustainability, Roper Gulf Council
- Luke Haddow, General Manager Infrastructure Services and Planning, Roper Gulf Council
- Cristian Coman, Manager Corporate Compliance, Roper Gulf Council
- Casey Hucks, Council Services Manager, Roper Gulf Council
- Bhumika Adhikari, Governance Engagement Coordinator, Roper Gulf Council (via Microsoft Teams)

- Daniele Piga, Governance Coordinator, Roper Gulf Council
- Kerry Lane, Northern Territory Police Force
- Katrina Cooper, Northern Territory Police Force
- Surinder Chriton, Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development (via Microsoft Teams)

2. NEXT MEETING

7.00 am on Tuesday, 12 August 2025, Barunga.

The meeting concluded at 6.00 pm.



Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 14

7.00 am, Tuesday 12 August 2025
Roper Gulf Council Office, Barunga

Present:	Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly
Apologies:	Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Secretariat:	Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Interpreter:	Ms Lyn Trindle (Aboriginal Interpreter Service)

The meeting opened at 7.00 am.

1. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

The Committee held a community drop-in session at the Roper Gulf Council offices in Barunga. During the course of the consultation, the Committee met with:

- Nell Brown, Margaret Coleman, Jocelyn McCartney, Erna Miller, Barunga Elders and/or Traditional Owners
- Alison Andrews, Registered Aboriginal Health Practitioner, Sunrise Health Services Aboriginal Corporation
- Delma McCarthy, Media Officer, Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association (TEABBA).

2. OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee discussed the call for submissions for its Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying.

Mr Young moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Committee extend its call for submissions for its Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying until Friday, 29 August 2025.

Question put and passed.

The Committee discussed an offer to meet with Tarntipi Homelands Aboriginal Corporation via phone on Monday 18 August 2025 in relation to its Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying.

Mr Kerle moved and Mr Young seconded that:

The Committee invite Tarntipi Homelands Aboriginal Corporation to a briefing with the Committee on Monday, 25 August 2025.

Question put and passed.

The Committee noted that the community consultation scheduled for Thursday 14 August 2025 in Numbulwar had been cancelled on the advice of Roper Gulf Council that there was Sorry Business in the community.

3. NEXT MEETING

10.00 am on Monday 18 August 2025, Darwin.

The meeting concluded at 3.30 pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Tanzil Rahman', with a large circular flourish on the left side.

**Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 15

10.00 am, Monday 18 August 2025

Litchfield Room

Present: Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly
Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff

Secretariat: Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Mr William Dreyer, Senior Research Officer
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

The meeting opened at 10.05 am.

1. VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY – VAD EXPERT ADVISORS – QUT TEAM

The Committee met with its expert legal advisors in relation to its Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying.

2. VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY – BRIEFING WITH TANTIPI HOMELANDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

The Committee met with representatives of Tarntipi Homelands Aboriginal Corporation, including:

- Teddy Portaminni, Chairperson
- Michael Massingham, Director
- Teresia Portaminni, Director
- Nelsina Portaminni, Director
- Baptista Portaminni, Director
- Charlotte Portaminni, Director
- Edwina Portaminni, Director
- Georgina Portaminni, Director
- Therese Portaminni, Director
- Nathan Richardson, Member
- Pedro Lorenzo, Member
- Melanie Schofield, External consultant.

Mr Young departed the meeting at 11.56 am.

The witnesses withdrew.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Noting time shortages, the Committee deferred consideration of minutes of previous meetings until a future meeting.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Mx McNamara moved, and Mrs Carlson seconded that the Committee noted the correspondence.

Question put and passed.

Mx McNamara moved, and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee write to the Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board to:

- acknowledge the issues raised in their correspondence and note that many of those issues stem from the 2024 VAD Expert Panel Report.
- request that the Review Board assist the Committee by reviewing the sections of the Committee's final report that address Queensland's VAD legislation.

Question put and passed.

5. INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING – SUBMISSIONS

The Committee deferred consideration of submissions until a future meeting.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

7. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 19 August 2025, Gunbalanya.

Meeting closed at 12.30 pm.



Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 16

8.00 am, Tuesday 19 August 2025
Gunbalanya School, Gunbalanya

Present: Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly

Secretariat: Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer

The meeting opened at 8.00 am.

1. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

The Committee met with the Gunbalanya School Board representatives, including the following individuals:

- Kerry Manakgu, Chair Gunbalanya IPS Board
- Hagar Nadjamerrek, Board member
- Ursala Badari, Board member
- Raylene Gellar, Board member
- Roberta Carlton, Board member
- Christine Alengale, Board member
- Rosie Bunker, Board member
- Esther Djayhgurrnga, Co-Principal
- Sue Trimble, Co-Principal
- Joe Brown, Director Community Engagement, NT Department of Education
- Suzie Peckham, Senior Community Engagement Advisor, NT Department of Education.

2. OTHER BUSINESS

3. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 20 August 2025, Papunya.

Meeting closed at 12.30 pm.

Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 17

8.00 am, Wednesday 20 August 2025

Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation office, Papunya

Present:	Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Apologies	Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly
Secretariat:	Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Guest:	Mr Rufus McNamara

The meeting opened at 8.00 am.

1. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

The Committee held a community consultation session facilitated by Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation. The Committee was assisted by cultural connector, Alison Anderson.

The Committee spoke to the following community members.

- Deanne Major
- Rosita Jugadai
- Isobel Gorey
- Isobel Major
- Candy Nakamarra
- Josephine Minor
- Gabrielle Bennett
- Minnie Nelson
- Carita Nelson
- Charlotte Roberts
- Kael Raggett
- Puuni Brown
- Tammy Kalion
- Janie Karpa
- Florence Brown
- Shelia Major
- Tallisa Kantawarra
- Mary Nungabor
- Corama Raggett
- Jill Kantawara
- Priscilla Brown
- Emily Putungka
- Emma Boughton
- Shemena Roger
- Karen McDonald
- Hita McDonald
- Vanessa Brumby
- Janet Tjitayi
- Roslyn Dixon
- Ada Andy
- Garrard Anderson
- Gerard Pepperill
- Graham Paulson
- Dennis Minor
- Standley Roberts
- Bruce Inkamala
- Morris Roberts
- Clayton Minor
- Ashley Robertson
- Tobias Raggett
- Adrian Stockman
- Rusty Campbell
- Dermott Cook
- Glavin Jack
- Betty Brown
- Punata Stockman

- Robert Minor
- Travis McDonald
- Joseph Lane
- Makinti Robertson
- Cassandra Minor
- Una Ratara
- Taralyn Major

- Denilee Spencer
- Dennis Nelson
- Desmond Phillipus
- Nellie Tjahjiri
- Dorathea Nelson
- Felicia Inkamada

2. OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee noted that advice from local stakeholders indicated that it would not be appropriate timing to visit Ali Curung and Ampilawatja the following week. The Committee noted that arrangements had been made to travel to Numbulwar on 26 August 2025 and Tennant Creek on 27 and 28 August 2025.

3. NEXT MEETING

Thursday 21 August 2025, Alice Springs.

Meeting closed at 1.00 pm.



Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 18

9.30 am, Thursday 21 August 2025
Various locations, Alice Springs

Present:	Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Apologies	Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Secretariat:	Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer

The meeting opened at 9.30 am.

1. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

Alice Springs Hospital

The Committee visited Alice Springs Hospital. The Committee met with staff from the Aboriginal Engagement and Strategy Unit and the Palliative Care Team, including:

- Patrick Torres, Aboriginal Cultural Coordinator
- Curtis Lane, Aboriginal Liaison Officer
- Linda Bray, Aboriginal Liaison Officer
- Penny Stewart, Aboriginal Engagement and Strategy Unit Department Head
- Freo Miegel, NCN COM Palliative Care
- Sharon Clark, CNC Palliative Care
- Ann Ryan, Unit Manager, Palliative Care
- Linda Hauralli, RN Palliative Care
- Janet O'Brien, PCA Palliative Care
- Christine Sanderson, Palliative Care Doctor (Medical Director).

Alice Springs Baptist Church

The Alice Springs Baptist Church facilitated a meeting with the following individuals:

- Gavin Brown, Alice Springs Baptist Church
- Malcolm Auld, Chair, Alice Springs Ministers Fellowship (via Zoom)
- Paul Traeger, Support Worker, Finke River Mission (Lutheran)
- Jane Bannister, Anglican Church Congregation
- Peter Bannister, Anglican Church Congregation

The meeting was observed by Dr Meredith Lake, Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Australian Christian Lobby

The Committee met with Nicholas Lay, NT Director of the Australian Christian Lobby.

Old Timers Aged Care (Australian Regional and Remote Community Services)

The Committee had a site visit at Old Timers Aged Care, a facility run by Australian Regional and Remote Community Services (ARRCS). The Committee met with staff and residents, including:

- Michael Coughwan, Executive Manager, First Nations Programs ARRCS
- Yanja Thompson, First Nations Project and RAP Officer
- Richav Sedai, Clinical Research Nurse
- Joanne Moody, Leisure/Lifestyle Coordinator
- Catherine Hampton, Operations Manager, Multisite
- Margaret Blum, resident
- Josephine Kelihen, resident
- Vern Ellis, resident
- Martha Bevan, resident
- Beverly Devine
- Jeanne Lindsey, resident
- Betty Edwards, resident

2. OTHER BUSINESS

3. NEXT MEETING

Monday 25 August 2025, Darwin.

Meeting closed at 3.30 pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr Tanzil Rahman', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

**Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 19

9.30 am, Monday 25 August 2025
Litchfield Room

- Present:** Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly (via Microsoft Teams)
- Apologies:** Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
- Secretariat:** Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Mr William Dreyer, Senior Research Officer
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

The meeting opened at 9.35 am.

1. VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY – VAD EXPERT ADVISORS – QUT TEAM

The Committee met with its expert legal advisors in relation to its Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying.

2. VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY – BRIEFING WITH MANINGRIDA LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The Committee met with representatives of the following Maningrida Local Organisations:

- Charlie Gunabarra, Chairperson, Mala'la Health Service Aboriginal Corporation
- Lesley Woolf, Executive Health Manager, Mala'la Health Service Aboriginal Corporation
- Kira Bourke, CEO, Bawinanga Homelands Aboriginal Corporation (via Microsoft Teams)
- David Wuridjal Jones, Chairperson, Nja-marleya Cultural Leaders & Justice Group
- Seide Ramadani, CEO, Nja-marleya Cultural Leaders & Justice Group (via Microsoft Teams)
- Shane Namanurki, Chairperson, Maningrida Progress Association
- Adam Longbottom, CEO, Dukurrdji Development Corporation (via Microsoft Teams)
- Nic Sharrah, CEO, Homelands School Company (via Microsoft Teams)
- James Woods, Mayor, West Arnhem Regional Council
- Katharine Murray, CEO, West Arnhem Regional Council.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

4. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 27 August 2025, Gunbalanya
Meeting closed at 12.00 pm.

Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA

Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 20

7.00 am, Tuesday 26 August 2025
Various locations, Numbulwar

Present:	Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri Mr Khoda Patel MLA, Member for Casuarina (Substitute Member)
Apologies	Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Secretariat:	Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Interpreter:	Ms Rita Ngalmi (Aboriginal Interpreter Service)

The meeting opened at 7.00 am.

1. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING
Aged Care Centre

The Committee met with local aged care clients in the Numbulwar Aged Care Centre (Roper Gulf Council). The Committee met with the following individuals:

- Pamela Warg
- Bellama Anagua
- Wulja Nunggarrgula
- Margaret Miriniyowan
- Nanette Murrugun
- Mara Murrugun
- Guyumayag Nyalmi
- Kevin Murrugun
- Mawungumain Nundhirribala.

Community Drop-in Session

The Committee held an open forum for community consultation at the Roper Gulf Council offices. The Committee met with:

- Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi, Councillor (Numbulwar Nurburindi Ward), Roper Gulf Council
- Reverend Bundur Rami, Church of the Holy Spirit.

2. OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee discussed the draft material provided by the expert legal advisors from QUT.

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Patel seconded that:

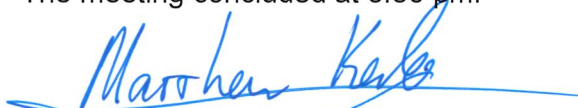
A subcommittee of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee be formed, including Mr Kerle, Mrs Carlson and Mr Young.

Question put and passed.

3. NEXT MEETING

7.00 am on Wednesday 26 August 2025

The meeting concluded at 3.30 pm.



Matthew Kerle-MLA
Deputy Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 21

7.00 am, Wednesday 27 August 2025
Various locations, Tennant Creek

Present:	Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly
Apologies	Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Secretariat:	Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer

The meeting opened at 7.00 am.

1. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING
Barkly Regional Council

The Committee met with Councillors of Barkly Regional Council, including:

- Sid Vashist, Mayor
- Lennart (Len) Holbrok, Councillor
- Pennie Cowin, Councillor
- Gregory Marley, Councillor.

Pulkapulkka Kari Flexible Aged Care

The Committee visited the Pulkapulkka Kari Flexible Aged Care (ARRCS). The Committee met the following staff:

- Loida Penez
- Mijina Borotu
- Sovaia Silibau
- Peni Raiwalui
- Tania Forsyth
- Lavenia Aleamotia
- Irene Snell.

Community Drop-in Session

The Committee held an open forum for community consultation. The Committee met with the following individuals:

- Amy James

- Alba Brockee
- Chris Kinross.

2. OTHER BUSINESS

3. NEXT MEETING

7.00 am on Thursday 28 August 2025, Tennant Creek

The meeting concluded at 4.15 pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr Tanzil Rahman', is written over a large, light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 22

8.30 am, Thursday 28 August 2025
Various locations, Tennant Creek

Present:	Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly
Apologies	Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Secretariat:	Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer

The meeting opened at 8.30 am.

1. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING
Tennant Creek Mob Aboriginal Corporation

The Committee met with the Tennant Creek Mob Aboriginal Corporation, including:

- Jacqueline Bethel, CEO
- Josephine Bethel, Youth Program Manager
- Rekeisha Taylor, Night Patrol Manager.

Individual witness

The Committee met with Romy Carey, CEO, Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association at the Barkly Business Hub.

Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation

The Committee met with representatives of Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation, including Lachlan Wilkins and Mikeely Fraser.

Tennant Creek Hospital

The Committee visited Tennant Creek Hospital and met with Ruth Smith, Acting Clinical Nurse Educator.

Mr Young departed at 3.30 pm.

Mr Kerle and Mrs Carlson, as the subcommittee formed on 26 August 2025, met with Jack Gannon, a patient of Tennant Creek Hospital.

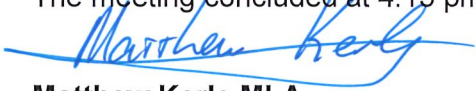
2. OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee discussed the draft material provided by the expert legal advisors from QUT, including Chapters 2 and 3, and agreed to send comments back to the advisors.

3. NEXT MEETING

9.00 am on Monday 1 September 2025, Darwin.

The meeting concluded at 4.15 pm.



Matthew Kerle MLA

Deputy Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 23

9.00 am, Monday 1 September 2025

Litchfield Room

Present: Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly (from 10.29 am)

Apologies:

Secretariat: Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

The meeting commenced at 9.07 am.

The Committee noted that Mr Young would be arriving late to the meeting.

The Chair thanked the Committee Members and Secretariat for their hard work on the Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying to date. The Chair particularly thanked Senior Research Officer, Georgia Eagleton, for her assistance in facilitating the remote hearing travel for the Inquiry.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No.12 of 6 August 2025 be confirmed, subject to the addition of the names of three community members, Margaret George, Roberta Abajee and Devita.

Question put and passed.

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Minutes of the following meetings be confirmed:

- Meeting No. 13 – Remote Hearing (Borroloola) – 7 August 2025
- Meeting No. 14 – Remote Hearing (Barunga) – 12 August 2025
- Meeting No. 15 – Deliberative Meeting – 18 August 2025
- Meeting No. 16 – Remote Hearing (Gunbalanya) – 19 August 2025
- Meeting No. 17 – Remote Hearing (Papunya) – 20 August 2025
- Meeting No. 18 – Remote Hearing (Alice Springs) – 21 August 2025
- Meeting No. 19 – Deliberative Meeting – 25 August 2025
- Meeting No. 20 – Remote Hearing (Numbulwar) – 26 August 2025
- Meeting No. 21 – Remote Hearing (Tennant Creek) – 27 August 2025
- Meeting No. 22 – Remote Hearing (Tennant Creek) – 28 August 2025

Question put and passed.

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded the Minutes of Meeting No. 11 – Public Hearing – 5 August 2025 be confirmed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The Chair moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The Committee invite the following witnesses to attend a public hearing in Darwin on Friday, 5 September 2025:

- NT Health
 - Mr Chris Hosking, Chief Executive Officer
 - Dr Paul Burgess, Acting Chief Health Officer
 - Dr Jeremy Chin, Chief Medical Officer
 - Dr Kane Vellar, clinical subject matter expert and former member of the VAD Independent Expert Panel.
- Australian Medical Associate NT
 - Dr John Zorbas, President

Question put and passed.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

That the Committee refer the legal advice regarding the Agriculture Legislation Amendment Regulations 2025 (No 4 of 2025) to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries for consideration and comment by 13 October 2025.

Question put and passed.

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

That the Committee defer consideration of this correspondence to its first deliberative meeting in October 2025.

Question put and passed.

The Chair circulated a draft letter to the Attorney-General responding to the Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying Terms of Reference.

The Chair moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee send the draft letter provided by the Chair to the Attorney-General to provide an update on the progress of the Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying, noting that the Committee will be in a position to submit its Final Report in November 2025, and seeking guidance on a suitable submission date for the Final Report.

Question put and passed.

4. INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING – SECOND INTERIM REPORT

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report, *Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying in the Northern Territory – Second Interim Report*, for tabling in the Legislative Assembly during the September sitting week, subject to finalisation of outstanding data, list information and the addition of the names of three witnesses at paragraph 1.15 (Margaret George, Roberta Abajee and Devita).

Question put and passed.

5. INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING – SUBMISSIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Committee discussed Submissions 37, 70, 90 and 174 that make references to specific drugs used for voluntary assisted dying and its expert advisor, Dr Lamba's, advice regarding redacting those references and replacing them with 'the VAD substance'.

Mx McNamara noted their preference was for the Committee to follow Dr Lamba's advice, noting the safety and ethical considerations associated.

The Chair noted that, in his view, there is no liability or risk associated with publishing the name of the VAD substance. The Chair noted his concern that redacting the name of the VAD substance would compromise the transparency of the Inquiry process.

The Chair moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

Submissions 37, 70, 90 and 174 be published as received by the Committee.

Question put and passed.

The Committee discussed Submissions 210, 260 and 275 that make references to Nazism.

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

Submissions 210, 260 and 275 be published as received by the Committee.

Question put and passed.

6. INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING – DISCUSSION OF QUT MATERIAL

The Committee decided to discuss the QUT draft material at its next meeting due to time constraints.

7. VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING INQUIRY EXPERT ADVISOR BRIEFING – DR GEETANJALI LAMBA

The Committee was briefed by Dr Lamba. The Committee requested Dr Lamba provide a written summary of the issues discussed.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

9. NEXT MEETING

10.00 am, Friday 5 September 2025.

Meeting closed at 11.55 am.



**Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 24

10.00 am, Friday 5 September 2025
Litchfield Room

Present: Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff (via Microsoft Teams)
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly

Secretariat: Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am.

1. INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING – PUBLIC HEARING
Australian Medical Association NT

The Committee heard from Dr John Zorbas, President of the Australian Medical Association NT.
The witness withdrew.

NT Health

The Committee heard from the following witnesses from NT Health:

- Dr Paul Burgess, Chief Health Officer
- Dr Jeremy Chin, Chief Medical Officer
- Dr Kane Vellar, clinical subject matter expert and former member of the VAD Independent Expert Panel.

The witnesses withdraw.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Young moved, and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 23 of 1 September 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The Chair noted that at its previous meeting, the Committee had resolved to send a letter to the Attorney-General to provide an update on the progress of the Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying, noting that the Committee will be in a position to submit its Final Report in November 2025, and seeking guidance on a suitable submission date for the Final Report. This letter was sent on 1 September 2025.

The Committee noted that correspondence had been received from the Attorney-General on 5 September 2025, which acknowledges the Committee's considerable work already undertaken. The correspondence further states her determination that the Committee's work to date be wrapped up and that the Committee report back by 30 September 2025, with any further work identified to be managed by agency resources if required.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Committee note the correspondence.

Question put and passed.

5. INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING – SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED AFTER DUE DATE

Mr Kerle moved and Mr Young seconded that:

The Committee accept the submissions from Lisa Nunn and Umberto Villa and publish them on its website.

Question put and passed.

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Young seconded that:

The Committee accept a submission from the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and publish it on its website if it received by COB Friday 5 September 2025.

Question put and passed.

6. INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING – DISCUSSION ON FINAL REPORT PARAMETERS AND DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR QUT PROJECT TEAM

The Committee discussed the plan for the remainder of its Inquiry and the Secretariat circulated a document suggesting an approach and content, including key dates and a draft structure of the Final Report. The Secretariat circulated a preliminary draft of Chapter 4 – Eligibility Criteria as an example of the suggested drafting approach and noted that an additional chapter would be drafted prior to the Committee’s next meeting.

The Committee agreed to hold deliberative meetings on 24, 26 and 29 September 2025 to enable additional time to finalise its Final Report.

The Committee discussed a number of policy issues in order to guide drafting instructions prepared by the QUT Expert Advisor Team. The Committee agreed to send amendments to the Secretariat to pass on to the QUT team.

Mr Young departed at 2.54 pm.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

8. NEXT MEETING

9.00 am-12.00 pm, Monday 8 September 2025

10.00 am-5.00 pm, Monday 15 September 2025

10.00 am-5.00 pm, Wednesday 24 September 2025

10.00 am-5.00 pm, Thursday 25 September 2025

10.00 am-5.00 pm, Friday 26 September 2025

12.00 pm-5.00 pm, Monday 29 September 2025

Meeting closed at 4.41 pm.



Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 25

9.00 am, Monday 8 September 2025
Litchfield Room

Present: Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri (via Microsoft Teams)
Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff (via Microsoft Teams)
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly (via Microsoft Teams)

Secretariat: Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. MEETING

The meeting commenced at 9.05 am.

The Committee noted Chapter 4 – Eligibility Criteria was circulated during its last meeting. The Secretariat circulated draft Chapter 5 – Request and Assessment Process. The Chair instructed the Secretariat to circulate any future chapters directly to all Members. The Committee noted the Secretariat expects another three draft chapters will be ready by COB Thursday 11 September 2025. The Committee agreed to send suggested amendments to the Secretariat directly or via the Chair ahead of the next meeting, time permitting. The Committee agreed to collectively examine draft chapters circulated to date at its next meeting.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Young seconded that:

The Committee note the correspondence from the Attorney-General and the required reporting deadline of 30 September 2025 to report back.

Question put and passed.

3. INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING – MEETING WITH QUT EXPERT ADVISORS

The Committee discussed drafting instructions with the QUT Expert Advisors.

Mx McNamara departed at 10.05 am.

Mrs Carlson departed at 12.03 pm.

4. NEXT MEETING

10.00 am-5.00 pm, Monday 15 September 2025

10.00 am-5.00 pm, Wednesday 24 September 2025

10.00 am-5.00 pm, Thursday 25 September 2025

10.00 am-5.00 pm, Friday 26 September 2025

12.00 pm-5.00 pm, Monday 29 September 2025

Meeting closed at 12.11 pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Tanzil Rahman', with a large circular flourish on the left side.

Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 26

10.00 am, Monday 15 September 2025
Litchfield Room

- Present:** Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff (via Microsoft Teams)
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly
- Secretariat:** Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

The meeting opened at 10.04 am.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs Carlson moved and Mx McNamara seconded that the following be confirmed:

- The Minutes of Meeting No. 24 of 5 September 2025
- The Minutes of Meeting No. 25 of 8 September 2025 (with a correction to the time of the meeting's commencement).

Question put and passed.

2. INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING – RESOLVING POLICY POSITIONS FOR DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS

The Committee discussed and final positions on a number of issues in order to give instructions to the QUT Expert Advisors.

3. INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING – MEETING WITH QUT EXPERT ADVISORS

The Committee met with the QUT Expert Advisors for a final time to resolve outstanding policy positions and finalise the drafting instructions.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair requested the Secretariat provide a full draft of the final report of its Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying by 10.00 am on Wednesday, 24 September 2025.

The Committee agreed to cancel its meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 24 September 2025 to enable time for Members to read the draft final report.

There was a discussion about the status of the transcripts for the Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying.

5. NEXT MEETING

10.00 am-5.00 pm, Thursday 25 September 2025

Meeting closed at 4.00 pm.



**Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTH
WEST TERRITORIES
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
Meeting No. 25
10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Thursday 25
September 2025

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1. The meeting opened at 10:00 am.
2. The Chair welcomed members and the public to the meeting.
3. The Chair announced the agenda for the meeting.
4. The Chair announced the agenda for the meeting.
5. The Chair announced the agenda for the meeting.
6. The Chair announced the agenda for the meeting.
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10. The Chair announced the agenda for the meeting.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 27

10.00 am, Thursday 25 September 2025
Litchfield Room

Present: Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly

Secretariat: Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

The meeting opened at 10.09 am.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Kerle moved and Mr Young seconded that the following be confirmed:

- The Minutes of Meeting No. 26 of 15 September 2025

Question put and passed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

3. INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING – CONSIDERATION OF FULL FINAL DRAFT REPORT

Members thanked the Secretariat for the work undertaken preparing the draft report.

The Committee reviewed the comments in the full draft of the Committee report and agreed:

- At para 11.44, no changes were required in light of the QUT advice re the potential impact of institutional objection on a person's access to VAD
- To the addition of Rec 57 re healthcare workers being permitted to initiate discussions about VAD even though their entity may not provide VAD
- Rec 67: that the Review Board should be chaired by the CHO.

The Committee reread the QUT drafting instructions and made the following amendments:

- On page 4, paragraph 2 of final draft include a reference to the extensive remote consultation that it has undertaken.
- At para 3.37, the words '(such as a social worker)' be deleted
- At para 4.50, the drafting instructions be amended from a 14-day requirement for the VAD Substance to be returned to an authorised disposer to a two-business day requirement.
- At para 4.62, fix minor typo
- At para 7.10(c), add the Health and Community Services Complaints Commission as previously suggested

- At para 7.15, the drafting instructions should specify ‘the Minister, on the recommendation of the CHO, must ensure the membership of the Board’
- At para 7.16, the wording relating to the CHO’s delegate read ‘a person with delegated authority to act with powers of the CHO’
- Discuss a definition of ‘relevant healthcare worker’ with QUT

Chapter 5: Purpose and principles

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

Chapter 5 stand as drafted.

Question put and passed

Preliminary pages

The Committee agreed to the following changes being made:

- Glossary: add definition of ‘relevant healthcare worker’
- Executive summary: Chapter 3, add ‘in order to pass away on Country’ at the end of the 2nd paragraph. Chapter 4, add ‘definite’ before ‘view on a preferred type of service delivery’, Chapter 9, delete ‘Notification timelines must respect cultural practices, enabling ceremonies to occur before formal reporting’

Chapter 1: Introduction

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Young seconded that:

The following amendments be made to Chapter 1:

- Para 1.15 delete ‘wide-spread’
- Para 1.24 add ‘always’
- Para 1.33 replace ‘culturally’ with ‘cultural’
- Para 1.45 replace ‘The Committee aimed to ensure consultation was undertaken in a culturally safe manner. To that end the Committee adopted the following methods to ensure culturally safe practices were incorporated where possible:’ with ‘The Committee attempted to incorporate culturally safe practices in its consultations by: undertaking’. Fourth bullet point delete ‘culturally appropriate’
- Para 1.46 create new para ‘The Committee was working to significant time constraints, limiting its engagement, the work of interpreters, and communities’ access to some materials. In Ngukurr, the Committee heard “it was short notice”.

Question put and passed

Chapter 2: Intersection of VAD with the existing NT healthcare system

Mr Kerle moved and Mr Young seconded that Chapter 2 stand as drafted.

Question put and passed

Chapter 3: Finishing up well: end of life choices

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Young seconded that:

The following amendments be made to Chapter 3:

- Page 73: add the AMA and NT Health quotes regarding the 30% additional costs of palliative care with the introduction of VAD

- Rec 3: add the text 'recognising evidence and testimonies indicating increased need for palliative care services following the introduction of VAD'

Question put and passed

Chapter 4: VAD service delivery models

Mr Kerle moved and Mr Young seconded that:

The following changes be made to Chapter 4:

- Para 4.3 replace 'notes that the service delivery model will be developed over time' with 'recommends a decentralised delivery model that may evolve over time'
- Committee comments: delete 'Therefore, consistent with the 'Australian model of VAD', the recommendations throughout this report do not specify a specific service delivery model in the NT legislation'. Add text from QUT material re decentralised service and reflect in a new recommendation

Question put and passed

4. OTHER BUSINESS

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5. NEXT MEETING

10.00 am, Friday 26 September 2025.

Meeting closed at 4.43pm.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr Tanzil Rahman', is written over the printed name and title.

Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 28

10.00 am, Friday 26 September 2025

Litchfield Room

Present: Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff

Apology: Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly

Secretariat: Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer

Mr Russell Keith, Clerk (12.30pm – 3.30pm)

The meeting opened at 10.11 am.

1. INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING – CONSIDERATION OF FULL FINAL DRAFT REPORT

The Committee reviewed the track changes in the draft from 25 September.

Chapter 6: Eligibility criteria

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The following amendments be made to Chapter 6:

- Add a new para 6.47: Consideration should also be given to people with a long-standing association with or connection to the NT. Replicate under Committee comments section

Question put and passed

Chapter 7: Request and assessment process

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that Chapter 7 stand as drafted.

Question put and passed

Chapter 8: Administration of the VAD Substance

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The following amendment be made to Chapter 8:

- Rec 36(e) fix typo
- Rec 36(h) replace 14 days with two business days

Question put and passed

Chapter 9: Steps after death

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that Chapter 9 stand as drafted.

Question put and passed

Chapter 10: Health practitioner's qualifications and training

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The following amendments be made to Chapter 10:

- Add a new para 10.33: The Committee is of the view that training is not required to accept a First Request. It is, however, required to assess a person's eligibility.
- Rec 45: delete '(here, assessing a person's eligibility)'

Question put and passed

Chapter 11: Non-participation by health practitioners and entities

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The following amendments be made to Chapter 11:

- Para 11.28 replace 'object' with 'objections'
- Add new recommendation: 'The Committee recommends that health or care entities that object to VAD may refuse to participate in VAD'

Question put and passed

Chapter 12: Accountability, offences and protections

Mx McNamara moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The following amendments be made to Chapter 12:

- Para 12.26 replace 'cost efficiency' with 'pragmatic'. Add 'to utilise existing resources with statutory powers' at the end of the bullet point
- Rec 83(ii) replace 'believes' with 'or others believe'
- Para 12.86 delete ', including speech pathologists'

Question put and passed

Chapter 13: Other considerations

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that Chapter 13 stand as drafted

Question put and passed

Appendix 1

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Kerle seconded that Appendix 1 stand as drafted

Question put and passed

Appendix 2

The Chair asked the Secretariat when the transcripts would be publicly released. The Secretariat advised that the proof transcripts, as previously discussed, were pencilled in for consideration by the Committee at its first meeting after the VAD report had been adopted – 13 October. The Secretariat reiterated that given resource and time constraints its sole focus was on delivering the final draft report to the Committee for its consideration. The Secretariat advised that accordingly the proof/uncorrected transcripts for the community consultations (except 5 August and 5 September) have not yet been sent to witnesses for correction and/or redactions (as per the usual process).

Secretariat staff requested a break and departed the meeting at 11.30am.

The Clerk met with the Committee from 12.30pm to 3.30pm.

The Secretariat rejoined the Committee meeting at 3.45pm.

The Chair advised that the proof transcripts of meetings would now be considered by the Committee at its VAD report adoption meeting on Monday 30 September. The Secretariat advised that it could not provide advice on the proof transcripts, nor the merits of their publication ahead of witnesses having the opportunity to review their content, given the tight deadline for the final report.

The Committee agreed to not deliberate the transcripts from the meetings with Roper Gulf Regional Council officers in Ngukurr on 6 August and the second day of meetings in Tennant Creek on 28 August at its next meeting on 29 September 2025 and to defer consideration until a later time.

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that Appendix 2 stand as drafted

Question put and passed

Appendix 3

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Kerle seconded that Appendix 3 stand as drafted (pending further changes sought by the Committee from QUT)

Question put and passed

Preliminary pages

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that:

The following further amendments be made to the preliminary pages:

- A summary of Chapter 1: Introduction be added to the Executive Summary
- Revisions be tracked in by the Secretariat to ensure the Executive summary reflects the amended content of the main report
- See also changes agreed to on 25 September

Question put and passed.

The Committee asked the Secretariat to make the recommendation wording consistent throughout the report. The Secretariat advised it would proofread the whole report over the weekend.

2. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Kerle moved and Mx Namara seconded that the transcript from the public hearing on 5 September 2025 be published

Question put and passed

3. NEXT MEETING – REPORT ADOPTION

noon, Monday 30 September 2025.

Meeting closed at 4.10pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'D' followed by a series of connected loops and a long horizontal stroke ending in a small hook.

Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 29

12.00 pm, Monday 29 September 2025
Litchfield Room

- Present:** Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff (via Teams)
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly
- Secretariat:** Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer

The meeting opened at 12.03pm.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that the following be confirmed:

- The Minutes of Meeting No. 27 of 24 September 2025
Question put and passed.

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that the following be confirmed as amended:

- The Minutes of Meeting No. 28 of 25 September 2025
Question put and passed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

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3. INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING – FINAL REPORT ADOPTION

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for its high-quality work, the QUT team for their drafting instructions and Dr Lamba for her clinical advice.

The Committee reviewed and agreed to the following track changes in the draft report:

Page	Change
3-8	Contents table will be stripped back
15	New definition of formal request inserted
19	Committee request: Updated Executive Summary, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Chapter 1 content• Minor updates to Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12
32	Point about expanding conscientious objection for individuals working in healthcare sector added
40-41	Committee request: Amendments made by Committee re cultural safety in approach to Inquiry
56	Redacted name as consent was not given prior to the meeting
74	Committee request: Addition of 30% increase in palliative care quotes

76	Redacted name as consent was not given prior to the meeting
78	Committee request: amendment to recommendation
79	Clarification that decentralised model is recommended
90	Committee request: Additional text from QUT material about decentralised model
107	Line moved out of recommendation into body of report
114 and 117	Committee request: Add people with long-standing connection of the NT (use of 'should')
140	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing word added • Committee request: remove '(such as a social worker)'
187	QUT updates (reordering the content)
188	Change order of recommendations to align with QUT
194-195	Committee request: remove 'here assessing a person's eligibility' from Recommendation 45 and add sentence to body of report
204	Committee request: Flow on effects of Committee's request relating to 'relevant healthcare worker' (i.e., broadening to include interpreters etc.)
213	Committee request: Addition of Recommendation 55 (explicit ability of institutions to conscientiously object)
220	Committee request: CHO chairperson rationale updated
222	Deleted Recommendation, noting it duplicates Recommendation 70
239	Altered order of recommendation to align with QUT changes
242	Updated to align with QUT material (previously paraphrased but now using exact wording from QUT)
248	Updated to align with QUT material (added in final version)

Mr Kerle moved and Mr Young seconded that Chapters 1-13, the preliminary pages and appendices stand as amended as part of the report, Voluntary Assisted Dying in the Northern Territory – Final Report

Question put and passed.

Mrs Carlson moved and Mx McNamara seconded that any typographical or grammatical errors be corrected, quotes be inserted, removed or edited following receipt of consent from witnesses, and consistency edits be made to align with the QUT drafting instructions by the Secretariat ahead of tabling

Question put and passed

The Chair moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that any signed dissenting reports be forwarded to the LCAC Secretariat by 9am on 30 September 2025

Question put and passed

Mr Young moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that in accordance with the inquiry terms of reference and pursuant to Standing Order 200(4), the LCAC report on voluntary assisted dying be tabled out of session with the Speaker on 30 September 2025

Question put and passed

The out of session tabling process was discussed.

4. INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING – DELIBERATION ON THE PUBLICATION OF PROOF/UNCORRECTED TRANSCRIPTS OF REMOTE CONSULTATIONS

Ngukurr – 6 August

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that the proof transcript from the meeting with St Matthews Anglican Church be published. Mr Young and Mx McNamara dissented.

Question put and passed

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that consideration of the proof transcripts from the community drop-in session and meeting with Roper Gulf Regional Council be deferred to a later date.

Question put and passed

Mr Young departed the meeting at 1.34pm

Borrooloola - 7 August

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that the proof transcript of the meeting with Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Indigenous Corporation be sent to Ms Anderson for correction and consent to publish.

Question put and passed

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that the proof transcript from the meeting with the Borrooloola Local Authority be published.

Question put and passed

Barunga – 12 August

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that the proof transcript from the first session be published.

Question put and passed

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that the proof transcript from the second session be published.

Question put and passed

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that the proof transcript from the third session be published.

Question put and passed

Wurrumiyanga – 18 August

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that the proof transcript be published. Mx McNamara dissented.

Question put and passed

Gunbalanya – 19 August

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that the proof transcript be published. Mx McNamara dissented.

Question put and passed

Papunya – 20 August

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that the proof transcript be published.

Question put and passed

Alice Springs – 21 August

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Kerle seconded that the proof transcript of the meeting with the Aboriginal Engagement and Strategy Unit, Alice Springs Hospital be published.

Question put and passed

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Kerle seconded that the proof transcript of the meeting with the Palliative Care Team, Alice Springs Hospital be published. Mx McNamara dissented.

Question put and passed

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that the proof transcript of the meeting with the Alice Springs Baptist Church be published.

Question put and passed

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that the proof transcript of the meeting with the Australian Christian Lobby be published.

Question put and passed

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Kerle seconded that the proof transcript of the meeting at the Old Timers Aged Care Centre be published.

Question put and passed

Maningrida – 25 August

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Kerle seconded that the proof transcript of the meeting be published. Mx McNamara dissented.

Question put and passed

Numbulwar – 26 August

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that the proof transcript of the meeting at the Aged Care Centre be published. Mx McNamara dissented.

Question put and passed

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Kerle seconded that the proof transcript of the meeting with the Councillor (Numbulwar Nurburindi Ward) be published.

Question put and passed

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Kerle seconded that the proof transcript of the meeting with the Church of the Holy Spirit be published.

Question put and passed

Mr Young returned to the meeting at 2.10pm

Tennant Creek – 27 August

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that the proof transcript of the meeting with the Tennant Creek Local Authority be published.

Question put and passed

The Chair moved and Mr Kerle seconded that the proof transcript from the meeting with Pulkapulka Kari Flexible Aged Care be sent to Ms Forsyth and Ms Snell for correction and consent to publish.

Question put and passed

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Young seconded that the proof transcript from the community drop in session be sent to Ms Brockie for correction and consent to publish.

Question put and passed

Mx McNamara moved and Mr Young seconded that the name on page 9 of the proof transcript from the meeting with the disability advocates be redacted. The Chair dissented.

Question put and passed

Tennant Creek – 28 August

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that the proof transcript from the meeting with the Tennant Creek Mob Aboriginal Corporation be sent to Tennant Creek Mob Aboriginal Corporation for correction and consent to publish.

Question put and passed

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that the proof transcript from the meeting with the NT Cattlemen's Association be published.

Question put and passed

Mr Kerle moved and Mx McNamara seconded that the proof transcript from the meeting with the Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation be sent to the Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation for correction and consent to publish.

Question put and passed

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that the proof transcript from the meeting with the Ms Smith, Acting Clinical Nurse Educator, Tennant Creek Hospital be sent to Ms Smith for correction and consent to publish.

Question put and passed

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that the proof transcript from the meeting with Mr Jack Gannon, a patient at Tennant Creek Hospital be published with 3 sections redacted:

- Page 2 'Well, that ... pain'
- Page 3 'Yeah. Most ... them'
- Page 5 'Yeah, I suppose ... pain'

Question put and passed.

Mr Kerle moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that the corrected transcripts be published when received.

Question put and passed.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretariat confirmed the status of submissions 222, 255 and 277.

6. NEXT MEETING

10.00 am, Monday 13 October 2025.

Meeting closed at 3.02pm.

Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA
Chair