

From: [Dr Tim Coyle](#)
To: [LA VAD](#)
Subject: Submission re Northern Territory VAD Law.
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Submission re Northern Territory VAD law

From

DR Tim Coyle,

[REDACTED]

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Honourable members,

I am a GP in Cairns where I have been practising since 1980. During most of that time we GPs had admitting privileges to the private wards at the Cairns Base Hospital and also to the private Catholic Hospital in Cairns, the Calvary Hospital. Most of the terminal care and palliative care was carried out by us GPs in the above mentioned private wards, with the help of the nursing staff.

Providing Palliative Care in Cairns since 1980 I have never seen anyone “die in agony”. Modern analgesics work, as I know myself, having been prescribed Oxycodone for a stonefish sting, when I was pain free 20 minutes after taking the dose. When conditions deteriorate in terminal care, combinations of medications are delivered by subcutaneous syringe driver methods, or by direct iv, to relieve symptoms, provide analgesia and anaesthesia when required. I have never felt the need to directly kill a patient. Using Palliative Care as described above, terminally ill patients can drift away, surrounded by relatives. They are not being killed. I am appalled that so many doctors are now prepared, and do so, to kill their patients. Which is now legal in Qld. This is absolutely appalling. Do not bring this into the Northern Territory. Where is it going to lead? Doctors should not be given the legal power to kill their patients.