



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee**

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# **Associated Minutes of Proceedings**

## **Voluntary Assisted Dying in the Northern Territory – Second Interim Report**

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**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

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**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

<b>Present:</b>	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
<b>Apologies</b>	Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly
<b>Secretariat:</b>	Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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#### 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

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**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

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**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

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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

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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

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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.

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. 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

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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

<b>Present:</b>	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
<b>Secretariat:</b>	Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
<b>Interpreter:</b>	Ms Melissa Wurramarra (Aboriginal Interpreter Service)

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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

<b>Present:</b>	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
<b>Secretariat:</b>	Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
<b>Interpreter:</b>	Ms Bernadette Nethercott (Aboriginal Interpreter Service)

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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

<b>Present:</b>	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
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
<b>Secretariat:</b>	Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
<b>Interpreter:</b>	Ms Lyn Trindle (Aboriginal Interpreter Service)

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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

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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.

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. 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

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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

<b>Present:</b>	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
<b>Apologies</b>	Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly
<b>Secretariat:</b>	Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
<b>Guest:</b>	Mr Rufus McNamara

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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

<b>Present:</b>	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
<b>Apologies</b>	Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
<b>Secretariat:</b>	Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer

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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

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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

<b>Present:</b>	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)
<b>Apologies</b>	Dr Tanzil Rahman MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
<b>Secretariat:</b>	Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
<b>Interpreter:</b>	Ms Rita Ngalmi (Aboriginal Interpreter Service)

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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:

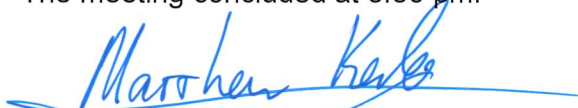
A subcommittee of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee be formed, including Mr Kerle, Mrs Carlson and Mr Young.

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

<b>Present:</b>	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
<b>Apologies</b>	Mx Kat McNamara MLA, Member for Nightcliff
<b>Secretariat:</b>	Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer

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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', with a large loop at the beginning 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. 22**

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

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

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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 Cattleman'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.

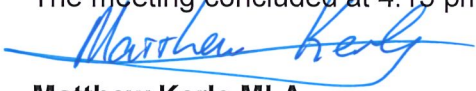
**2. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

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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**