

**From:** [Daryl Manzie](#)  
**To:** [LA VAD](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on VAD Legislation  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 August 2025 9:42:18 PM

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The Chairman  
The Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
NT Legislative Assembly

Your Committee has called for submissions in Relation to VAD Legislation for the NT.  
The Committee is using the O'Halloran Report, which was tabled in the NT Legislative Assembly as a basis for discussion and Community Comment.  
I will comment on 5 of the recommendations in the Report which I believe need reviewing.

Rec.No3.

States "VAD assessment must be conducted by appropriately trained medical practitioners only. VAD practitioners must undergo mandatory training and hold appropriate qualifications."  
We do not need another level of training for Doctor's, this is bureaucratic nonsense.  
A person registered as a medical Doctor and practicing as such, has sufficient training to assess and they have already undergone 8 years of Training!

Rec.No5.

States "Interpreters must be accredited in order to provide an interpreter service in VAD."  
As we have more than 200 different languages and more than 100 dialects in the NT, this requirement could prevent a person from accessing VAD. We need a simple requirement such as "all present at an application to assess VAD must be satisfied that the applicant had a full understanding of the issue".

Rec No8.

States "A requirement that a person should have ordinarily resided in Australia for two years, and the NT for 12 months, is ridiculous. VAD is available in all other States in Australia and in many overseas countries. This appears to be "Nanny State overreach, and Bureaucratic nonsense of the first order. (Remember a person must be found to be dying and will be dead within a specific time by the two Medical practitioners to be eligible to access VAD.) How ridiculous to be told! You're eligible, but you have not been here long enough, Go Away!.

Rec No19.

States "Requiring an Independent Statutory Body (A Review Board) to be established to review each case. WHY? The Coroner is required to look into each death now and She/He can establish a Coronial Enquiry if it is felt one is required. Please No More duplicating roles.

I also wish to State that if the Government follows the suggestions in the O'Halloran Report it will prove to be almost impossible to provide a pathway to VAD free from over regulation from complex requirements, and which appear to suit Political Compromise rather than the needs of patients. This would be at a time when Compassion and Support should be available, not a battle with Bureaucracy. Please relook at the VAD Bill which was passed in 1995 by your Parliament and use it as the VAD model.

Yours sincerely  
The Hon.Daryl Manzie AM. D.Litte hc  
Previous member NT Legislative Assembly  
Attorney General at the time VAD Leg, passed in NT

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