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To: [LA VAD](#)
Subject: VAD SUBMISSION
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Submission on Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) in the Northern Territory

I support the introduction of Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) in the Northern Territory. The NT community has been waiting far too long for laws that the majority clearly want, and which every other Australian state has already implemented.

The Rights of the Terminally Ill Act, passed in 1995 under the leadership of Marshall Perron, was visionary and carefully drafted. It has stood the test of time and has become the foundation for VAD legislation in other jurisdictions across Australia and around the world. Yet here we are, decades later, and Territorians are still without the choice they once had. Worse yet, we are still facing yet another committee process from a government that prides itself on action. What is evident to me is that the consultations and committees are merely tools of deference, used to avoid deciding on an issue that needs to be resolved now, not at some point in the distant future (again!)

The Attorney General's recent request to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee must be the final stage of delay. Territorians did not elect members to sit on their hands or hide behind endless "consultation." We elected representatives to act in the interests of their constituents, and the overwhelming majority want VAD. Personal views of individual members should not override or impede the will of the people.

Eligibility Criteria

- A person must be assessed as mentally competent to make such a decision.
- Eligibility should consider illness prognosis, progression, and available treatment options.
- I do not believe there should be an arbitrary minimum age. Each case should be judged individually, based on the person's unique circumstances. Where a patient is not of age, the parents should have the final right of approval.

Safe and Effective Access

- All cases should have an independent eligibility assessment by two qualified and experienced health practitioners, at least one with a psychiatric background.
- Palliative care options must be offered and discussed.
- Services must be accessible to people in remote areas and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Territorians without delay or unnecessary barriers.

Monitoring and Oversight

- A robust monitoring process should be established, with clear reporting requirements to ensure transparency and safety.
- At all times, the "Voluntary" in VAD must be respected. This is about an individual's choice, not the preferences of politicians or bureaucrats.

Right now, I can legally and compassionately end my pet's suffering, yet the government

denies me or my loved ones the same dignity. This is unacceptable.

The NT Government must stop wasting time, adapt proven models from other jurisdictions, and legislate VAD without further delay. Every day spent stalling is another day that Territorians face needless suffering.

Thank you.

Penny La Sette

Individual

