

From: [Ken Hansen](#)
To: [LA VAD](#)
Subject: VAD
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Ken Hansen & Lesley Hansen. [REDACTED]

My wife, family and myself have been involved with the Pintupi-Luritja Aboriginal people for many years. We first started working with learning to speak the language at Papunya in 1966 after our marriage. In those years the Pintupi-Luritja people helped us with writing up the grammar of their language and telling us stories in their language to help us understand their thinking in many different areas. They also worked tirelessly with us explaining the meaning of their words and concepts which we recorded in the Pintupi-Luritja dictionary. Many also worked tirelessly for many years and produced a couple of versions of the New Testament and abridged Old Testament. They also worked with us on producing reading materials, so that as many as possible could learn to read and write their own language. So after working with our Aboriginal relatives there on these tasks we have learned a lot about the way they think.

We are very concerned that the Northern Territory Government is thinking seriously about introducing Voluntary Assisted Dying policies into the health system of the NT. The health system is also currently operational on many of the First Nations people's communities. Aboriginal people, on most of these communities, we are sure, would be most uncomfortable about this VAD policy. It would go against much of their thinking about looking after their people when they are sick or dying. Our understanding is that most Aboriginal people would not want any of their relatives to die from suicide. Most would see this VAD policy as some form of suicide, that the Health Dept. is implimenting. Traditionally and later when many Aboriginal people have become Christians, they consider suicide the wrong thing to do. Several Aboriginal friends of my wife in the past, have been horrified by the suggestion of Voluntary Assisted Dying policies. As a result of the above **we would strongly recommend that the NT Government should not implement any VAD type policies.**
Ken & Lesley HANSEN