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To: [LA VAD](#)
Subject: VAD Legislation Submission
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Dear VAD Committee,

I am writing in opposition to the introduction of Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation in the Northern Territory. While I am sympathetic to the suffering of the terminally ill and their desire to put an end to their suffering, I am concerned about how this legislation can be used against people who are made to feel a burden on their relatives and on the community.

I have a friend in South Australia with a terminal illness and he and his family are periodically being asked to consider VAD as a valid option. Not wanting to be a burden on others, he has been wavering on a decision that his family is opposed to. Yet he has continued to live well past his predicted life expectancy.

The principle of taking the life of another person does not sit well with me, especially when we are told of the advances in palliative care for such patients.

Once VAD is legislated, it will be expedient for governments to wind back expensive palliative care treatments to encourage the terminally ill and other challenging people in care, to take the VAD option.

We have seen how governments in the western world have become much more expansive in addressing

abortion legislation. Since its inception, when allowances were very limited, we now permit aborted babies, born alive, to be left to die!

While this government might be trusted to uphold the stringent boundaries of its legislation, it leaves itself open for subsequent governments to water down the requirements as they see fit.

Therefore, I ask the committee to resist recommending that this legislation be considered by the Parliament.

Yours sincerely
Philip Nippress

