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To: [LA VAD](#)
Subject: Submission: Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) - Opposed
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Thank you for the opportunity to do a submission in regard to the proposed NT Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) Legislation.

I strongly oppose Voluntary Assisted Dying. I recognise this is a very difficult and emotional topic. I acknowledge that this legislation is being put forward in good faith to help people - with guidelines like minimum age, mental competency, no available cure, a cooling off period etc.

My opposition is based on (but not limited to) the following :

- It doesn't take long for the "right" to die to become an obligation to die.
- Instead of an act of last resort it becomes one of a number options available where it is offered or mandated in place of treatment.
- At what point does the decision become an economic decision not a patient care one? Cheaper to kill then treat.
- Society has been turned on its head with our values changing. The covid era showed how quickly decisions were made and enacted that ultimately were not in the best interests of the people. It's too late to say "maybe we should have done it differently" once it's done.
- It is very easy for family members to put pressure on an ill and vulnerable relative that they are a burden and should "do the right thing" for the family.
- Those who are in pain and suffering are more susceptible to want to "end it" to stop the suffering. My own mother was in hospital for a long stay. She was not terminally ill, but in pain and depressed. It would not have taken much to get her to decide to end it. She recovered and lived many more happy years finally passing away at 96 years old.
- It is a slippery slope once VAD is legalised. We all know that the strict guidelines will turn into suggestions that will eventually get thrown out completely.
- A society that has no problem aborting babies, even denying medical care to the babies who survive abortion, will have no problem in getting rid of the elderly and vulnerable in our society.
- As has happened in other countries, regardless of age, mental competency, cooling off periods and all the other guidelines people are being killed for expediency and economic reasons, not for what is best for the patient.
- Human life is sacred. Each and every person matters. We are all unique and are worthy of being cared for.
- Sick and elderly patients will fear being admitted to a hospital. The hospital system

means most patients will be seeing medical staff who they don't know and who don't know the patient. In this hurried busy world the connection, the familiarity, the caring won't be there.

- There are palliative care and treatment options.

I strongly oppose VAD. In a perfect world the guidelines will be strictly adhered to, decisions will be made in the best interests of the patient and great care will be taken. Unfortunately we do not live in a perfect world. This will end badly for our society and for our vulnerable people. Please do not legislate for VAD.

Kind regards

Lorna Manning

