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To: [LA VAD](#)
Subject: VAD cover for suicide
Date: Friday, 15 August 2025 6:32:41 AM

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To the Committee,

I would like to express my understanding of VAD and much as it sounds good, it is a cover for suicide and can be very distressing for all the people left to deal with this approach.

I do believe we have a time on earth, and aged care staff, Phil, who I know, says that medications are so effective these days that sick and ailing people can be made comfortable, for the person waiting for their time to go. I believe society needs to help more in supporting people. We can take the time and care for people, value them so they do not feel like they are a burden.

VAD sets up structures that can start off being conditional and strong guidelines, but evidence around the world show that these over 5-10 years later, they become eroded and people as young as teenagers, and older people who are a burden to their family, can be compromised into agreeing, can be rationalised into believing it would be better for them end it or to have their way.

<https://www.bioethics.org.uk/media/t1bf0icr/evidence-of-harm-assessing-the-impact-of-assisted-dying-assisted-suicide-on-palliative-care-prof-david-albert-jones.pdf>

They get into a mindset and believe conditions would never change, but life is not static and circumstances do change and dynamics. Hope can come, and the criteria can be eroded and guidelines stretched that vulnerable people can become a statistic.

Older people are not being honoured in some societies and research has shown where there is voluntary assisted suicide, the age people die is younger and younger. We cannot use this process to remove the 'unwanted' as they are not productive but life is far richer and more relational than our selfish self-centred ways.

https://irp.cdn-website.com/c0d44f22/files/uploaded/Did_the_Voluntary_Assisted_Dying_Act_2017.pdf

I strongly disagree with VAD and there is much to show it is dishonouring of the gift of human life and as a believer of God we are all given a purpose that needs to be fulfilled in their time. Not interfered with and rationalised that no life would be easier all round.

Please consider that there are a lot of people who disagree but would not think to put in a submission, they would honour their life set for them, it is only the invested who think it would help people and society, but evil can creep in with what seems good to man and we do not honour the gift of life putting in submissions.

No VAD- honour life

Yours sincerely
Sonia Van der Aa



Teacher, mother, grandmother, aunty, elder who needs caring,
Honourer of life