

From: [Desmond Gellert](#)
To: [LA VAD](#)
Subject: Submission to the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory as part for their Parliamentary Inquiry concerning Voluntary Assisted Dying
Date: Thursday, 21 August 2025 12:06:18 AM

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Greetings,

My name is Desmond John Gellert.

I represent myself only and the views here are only mine.

I now live in [REDACTED] which has postcode [REDACTED]. I used to live at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1. Do I support making VAD legal in the NT?

Yes.

2. What eligibility criteria should a person need to meet before they can access VAD?

I suggest that the NT proceed along very similar lines to that taken in Queensland's Legislation.

3. How could the NT make sure that an eligible person can access VAD in a safe and effective way, including people living in remote areas, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

I suggest that the NT proceed along very similar lines to that taken in Queensland's Legislation.

4. How could the NT monitor the process to ensure VAD is delivered safely and effectively?

I suggest that the NT proceed along very similar lines to that taken in Queensland's Legislation.

5. Additional comments #1:

I was a resident of the NT at the time that the original Rights of the Terminally Ill legislation was debated and passed by the NT Legislative Assembly.

I had the privilege to meet and talk to Bob (Robert) Dent for some 90+ minutes in the period between the bill being proposed and later passed by the Assembly.

I was deeply angered by the Federal Parliament over ruling the NT Legislation, but that is what the Federal Parliament can do to a Territory.

By adopting a model like that in place in Qld, the chance of a further overturning of NT Legislation is reduced, as there are "States Rights" to consider.

6. Additional comments #2:

As Bob Dent said to me, VAD is not for everyone.

I believe there need to be substantial penalties for coercing anyone to proceed with

VAD earlier than they would've made that decision themselves independently. Coercion to proceed with VAD early needs both Criminal and Civil penalties. It should be open for a Court of suitable Seniority to hear Criminal and Civil complaints in a single case and make findings and rulings accordingly.

Des Gellert



Think environment – do I really need to print this?