

From: [Ciara O'Sullivan](#)
To: [LA VAD](#)
Subject: I oppose Voluntary Assisted Dying in the NT
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 9:36:19 PM

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Dear Sir / Madam

I write to make my statement of opposition to the Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation being considered in the NT.

My name is Dr Ciara O'Sullivan and I am a longtime resident of [REDACTED]

There are a number of serious issues with VAD, I list some below:

- * Risk of coercion – vulnerable people (elderly, disabled, poor, socially isolated) may feel pressured to end their lives.
- * Erosion of trust in healthcare – patients may fear doctors could recommend death instead of care.
- * Slippery slope – overseas experience shows eligibility criteria always expand beyond initial limits. Eg initially for terminally ill patients but within a year or two, it expands to disabled people unable to get a chair lift or depressed teenage girls.
- * Undermines suicide prevention – sends mixed messages about the value of life.
- * Alternative care available – with good palliative care, most suffering can be relieved without hastening death.
- * Moral and cultural concerns – many communities, including Aboriginal groups, hold strong beliefs about the sanctity of life.

Many thanks & best of wishes - Ciara

[REDACTED]