

**From:** [sharon cramp](#)  
**To:** [LA VAD](#)  
**Subject:** Submission re VAD NT  
**Date:** Saturday, 19 July 2025 1:49:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [Chief Minister Letter 2018 to Me.pdf](#)  
[letter to PM re euthanasia 2017.pdf](#)  
[ADJOURNMENT NT Parliament 23NOV 2017 Sandra Nelson.pdf](#)

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**19/7/2025**

**Elizabeth Anne Holmes- A Story of a Beautiful Lady That Did Not Have the Choice to Access Euthanasia.**

The Northern Territory is now the only State or Territory in Australia that has not passed laws for Euthanasia.

My Mum (Elizabeth Anne Holmes) broke her back when she was 53, she battled breast cancer for 12 years, and had 2 hip replacements (one that dislocated itself early in 2017). She had a terrific career; she worked in a bank, she raised money in the Miss Australia Quest, worked as a model, worked in retail, worked as a divisional secretary for a prominent insurance company, was a Justice of the Peace for many years and also worked as a volunteer Lifeline counsellor for 18 years.

And most importantly, Mum was a devoted and dedicated wife and mother.

Mum kept an extremely detailed diary which explains in detail the decisions she was faced with before she took her own life on September 22nd, 2017. Mum was 77 years old when she died. Her story and diary were tabled in the NT Parliament on November 23rd, 2017 by Sandra Nelson MLA. (See attached). My Mum was a strong believer in Euthanasia and would have definitely accessed it if it was available at the time she ended her life.

The day Mum died, a letter was found on her dining table;

“To everyone I love, especially Wayne, Sharon and Wendy. I was so looking forward to my life after my two hip surgeries. I have not been able to walk or drive for years... for the first time after the second operation and I knew my life was ruined. My dream of training into Melbourne to visit my son and grandkids and also to Adelaide to catch the Ghan to see Shaz and Spud out of Darwin and my first trip to Wen and Dave’s home and my granddogs. Now I cannot even walk Katie! (Katie was her dog)

‘I thought okay, if I cannot walk, I will swim and I cannot do that as well. My grade four breast cancer has progressed and has broken through the skin and will infect people and become infected myself. I have had 24 years of pain. I am not going to burden my children and friends and have palliative care. What a farce that is! Because there is no option in New South Wales, I choose euthanasia. At least I could still drive but I am not capable of doing that. Never had an accident in 60 years. I have lost my confidence in driving. I have no independence. My licence has been cancelled. I have to pay to keep my garden, house and dog plus maintenance. I watch tv, I read, I do crosswords. I have become a hermit, with a dog called Katie, my saviour. I have nothing to look forward to but pain and indignity. We all should be able to choose when we die, so with great courage and no cowardice I go to God. An act of love. Please cremate Katie so she can be with me. Love, Mum.”

Over the past 7.5 years I have written to all the NT Chief Ministers, all Senators in Australia, all politicians across Australia, the Governor General and the Queen of England. and have asked the Federal Government on numerous occasions for the Northern Territory to have back the right to make the decision for ourselves.

Mr. Gunner stated in his letter to me on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018, that the NT Parliament is “ensuring that we all have control over our lives, that we are masters of our own destiny. That is an essential guiding value of this government.”

I also add Mr. Gunner’s, Chief Minister of the NT at the time, a letter of support to our Prime Minister in October 2017.

ABC Darwin shared a story about my Mum; which I encourage you to read.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-01-10/nt-voluntary-euthanasia-judy-dent-commonwealth-right-to-die/12820766>

**I hope that no one has to ever endure the situations and choices my Mum had to make on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, as she had no access to VAD.**

As an Australian citizen, ALL Australians should have the same rights; no matter WHERE you live, whether it be in a State or a Territory. **Everyone in Australia has the right now, but not the Northern Territory.** I look forward to reading the new report.

Sharon Cramp-Oliver [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



## **ADJOURNMENT – EUTHANASIA**

**23 November 2017**

Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to commend Premier of Victoria – Daniel Andrews and his government on the historic passing of voluntary euthanasia laws which were passed in Victoria's Upper House on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Madam Speaker , There are few topics as popular, and yet divisive, as euthanasia. Both sides raise compelling arguments, and those arguments are numerous.

End of life care for the terminally ill or those with ir-remediable illnesses is dictated by law, regardless of what is in the best interests of the patient. The current prohibition on assisted suicide is at odds with our otherwise patient-centred health system, it's almost contradictory. This is the one area of medical care in which the patient's views cannot be considered and taken into account in determining a course of action.

Many of those who would seek assisted suicide are not physically capable of taking their own life. Even where a person is capable of taking action themselves, it is my opinion that it is barbaric to leave them with the choice between a potentially long and undignified death or violent options to take their own life.

The Northern Territory likes to think of itself as frontier country - it was certainly at the forefront of the international debate over euthanasia. On 25 May 1995 it became the first jurisdiction in the world to pass laws allowing a doctor to end the life of a terminally ill patient at the patient's request. In doing so, the law permitted both physician-assisted suicide, and active voluntary euthanasia in some circumstances.

And under the Rights of the Terminally Ill Act 1995 (NT) strict conditions applied: it is neither an unqualified 'licence to kill' nor an unqualified affirmation of a competent adult patient's right to assistance in dying.

Madam Speaker, a couple of weeks ago I was visited in my electorate office by Sharon Cramp and her husband Spud.

Sharon and Spud shared with me the story about Sharon's beautiful mother, Elizabeth Ann Holmes. Liz broke her back when she was 53, she battled breast cancer for 12 years, and had 2 hip replacements (one that dislocated itself early this year). She had a terrific career; she worked in a bank, she raised money in the Miss Australia Quest, worked as a model, worked in retail, worked as a divisional secretary for a prominent insurance company, and also worked as a volunteer Life Line counsellor for 18 years.

And most importantly, Liz was a devoted and dedicated wife and mother.

Liz kept a very detailed diary; which Sharon has shared with me. Liz's diary explains in detail the decisions she was faced with before she took her own life this September. Liz was 77 years old when she died.

Sharon has shared also with me a letter that her mother wrote to her. And I will read that letter now.

*"To everyone I love, especially Wayne, Sharon and Wendy. I was so looking forward to my life after my two hip surgeries. I have not been able to walk or drive for years.....for the first time after the second operation and I knew my life was ruined. My dream of training into Melbourne to visit my son and grandkids and also to Adelaide to catch the Ghan to see Shaz and Spud out of Darwin and my first trip to Wen and Daves home and my granddogs. Now I cannot even walk Katie!*

*(Katie was her dog)*

*'I thought okay, if I cannot walk, I will swim and I cannot do that as well. My grade four breast cancer has progressed and has broken through the skin and will infect people and become infected myself. I have had 24 years of pain. I am not going to burden my children and friends and have palliative care. What a farce that is! Because there is no option in New South Wales, I choose euthanasia. At least I could still drive but I am not capable of doing that. Never had an accident in 60 years. I have lost my confidence in driving. I have no independence. My licence has been cancelled. I have to pay to keep my garden, house and dog plus maintenance. I watch tv, I read, I do crosswords. I have become a hermit, with a dog called Katie, my saviour. I have nothing to look forward to but pain and indignity. We all should be able to choose when we die, so with great courage and no cowardice I go to God. An act of love. Please cremate Katie so she can be with me. Love, mum.'*

Our Chief Minister has asked the federal government for the Northern Territory to have back that ability to make the decision for ourselves in this Chamber, he stated "ensuring that we all have control over our lives, that we are masters of our own destiny. That is an essential guiding value of this government."

I put on record today that I support a person's right to die with dignity, when and how they choose to do so. On behalf of Sharon and Spud, the rest of their family and their friends, and in memory of their mother Liz Holmes and in loving memory of my father – Joao Carrascalao, who also had to make a difficult decision, I commit today to lobby to introduce voluntary euthanasia laws to the Northern Territory.

I end my adjournment with a poem that is in Liz Holmes' dedication book given out at her funeral.

*A celebration of life.*

*Do not grieve for me. If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joy. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss. Ah yes those things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow. I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow. My life has been full. I savoured much. Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed too brief. Do not lengthen it now in undue grief. Lift up your heart and share with me. Be happy. I am set free.*

*In memory of Liz Holmes.*

I have the memorial book and a copy of Liz Holmes' diary and letter she wrote that I read tonight. I would like to table these in Parliament.

I have also shared copies of these with all Members to take the time to read through. It is an incredibly detailed diary and I encourage you to read it, so all of you have the opportunity to gain insight into what people go through when they make this decision.

Thank you Madam Speaker.



## CHIEF MINISTER

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Ms Sharon Cramp-Oliver  
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms Cramp-Oliver

Thank you for your letter of 4 April 2018 in relation to the rights of the terminally ill.

As you are aware, there continues to be discussion in relation to the introduction of voluntary euthanasia legislation in all States and Territories, and in particular following the progress more recently of the Victorian and New South Wales' *Voluntary Assisted Dying* legislation.

Late last year I wrote to the Prime Minister to request the Commonwealth take action to return legislative capacity back to the our Legislative Assembly to allow it to make laws in respect to voluntary euthanasia, thereby allowing Territorians the ability to determine their own position on this important matter.

The Prime Minister responded recently and advised that the Turnbull Government does not propose to introduce legislation to repeal the *Euthanasia Laws Act 1997 (Cwlth)* therefore preventing not only the Northern Territory, but also the Australian Capital Territory and Norfolk Island from considering any euthanasia legislation.

My Government will continue to raise this with the Commonwealth Government and keep the Territory's rights to have their say on the voluntary euthanasia agenda

Thank you for taking the time to write to me and expressing your support on this issue. I also thank you for personally sharing your mother's diary with the Member for Katherine and Members of Parliament.

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL GUNNER

26 APR 2018

ORIGINAL PAPER

No. 575  
Laid upon the Table  
23/11/17



CHIEF MINISTER

GUNNER  
PAPER TABLED  
23/11/17  
CLERK: [Signature]

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The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

Malcolm

As you are no doubt aware there has been continual public debate and discussion in respect to the introduction of voluntary euthanasia legislation in the States and Territories. That has recently culminated in the passing today, through the lower house of the Victorian Parliament, of Victoria's Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill. News South Wales introduced its Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2017 to the NSW Legislative Council on 21 Sep 2017.

As you may also be aware, the Northern Territory enacted its *Rights of the Terminally Ill Act* in 1995. That Act provided for voluntary euthanasia and was found by the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory to be within the law making capacity of the Territory's Legislative Assembly. The operation of that Act, and the Legislative Assembly's powers to legislate in respect to voluntary euthanasia, were subsequently curtailed by an amendment to the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978*. The Commonwealth inserted s 50A into the Self-Government Act which removed the ability of the Legislative Assembly to make such laws. At the time the Territory was the only Australian jurisdiction to have enacted such legislation. You also may recall that the Commonwealth's intervention was considered an affront by both supporters and opponents of the legislation to the Territory's status as a self-governing Territory.

Given recent developments in Victoria and New South Wales the time has come for the Commonwealth to alter its position in respect to the abovementioned amendment to the Territory's Self-Government Act. Accordingly, the Commonwealth is requested to take steps to return legislative capacity to the Territory's Legislative Assembly to allow it to make laws in respect to voluntary euthanasia, by repealing s 50A and allowing Territorians the ability to determine their own position on this important matter.

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL GUNNER

27 OCT 2017

