

From: [Chantal H](#)  
To: [LA VAD](#)  
Subject: Voluntary Assisted Dying  
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Good Afternoon,

My name is Chantal Heazlewood.

I currently live in Queensland (postcode [REDACTED]), but I lived most of my childhood in the NT in Papunya ([REDACTED]) and Alice Springs ([REDACTED]).

My email is [REDACTED]

I do not support making VAD legal. I think it is open to abuses and values human life based on cognitive function and/or "health" which sets a terrible precedent in health care. As far as I understand, palliative care is an important time for the person and their family to come to terms with their loved ones illness and prepare for their death. I would not want to see VAD become available to the mentally unwell or the disabled. I think legalising VAD opens the door for these things. People's lives have value even in moments of pain and distress and I think it's important that the law uphold this truth!

I don't think there is a "safe" way to access VAD. If you are allowing people to take their own life, and/or be encouraged to do so by the healthcare system or their families, how can one speak of doing it in a safe way?

"Eligibility criteria" is one of the reasons I do not support VAD. There are many reasons a person may wish to die, this doesn't mean it should be encouraged or assisted, and they may not make their motivation known to healthcare professionals. Furthermore, if someone is eligible but does not want to die, how will the law protect their life and uphold the value of their life?

If the law goes through, monitoring VAD will be essential. Especially if it is abused, (for example, people being coerced to end their life prematurely). It will be important that VAD is thoroughly documented including suspicious behaviour and requests of family and health care staff! But how will people be held accountable for ending someone's life if there is legal warrant for taking it at the person's request?

I hope that those considering the proposed law change will think not only of the best case scenario, but the ramifications of the beliefs about the value of life, especially the life of the elderly and sick, that support VAD.

Sincerely,

Chantal Heazlewood