



CHIEF MINISTER

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Mr Neville Driver
Public Officer
Palmerston and Litchfield Seniors Association Incorporated

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Dear Mr Driver

Territorians deserve to have high quality care throughout their life and this is the same for end of life care.

The Northern Territory Government is commencing a community consultation process for the development of a framework for Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) that will be suited to our needs for accessible and safe care. An independent Expert Advisory Panel (the Advisory Panel) will be commissioned to lead the consultation process under the *Inquiries Act 1945*. We were pioneers in VAD in 1995 with *The Rights of the Terminally Ill Act* and now we will build upon that knowledge base and the experience nationally and internationally to create a contemporary framework.

The Panel will be led by eminent Territorians with co-chairs The Hon Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO and Mr Duncan McConnel SC, supported by an Expert Advisory Panel representing the diversity of the Northern Territory community and expertise.

The independent Panel will be guided by Terms of Reference (attached) and they will listen to the views of our community to shape the framework with all the necessary safeguards for Territorians. The Panel will provide a written report to the Northern Territory Government by July 2024.

I acknowledge this is a sensitive matter for some people. I can assure you that our approach and the conduct of discussions will be in a respectful and considerate manner. Please feel welcome to participate in the consultations in the coming months and share your views with the Panel.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Natasha".

NATASHA FYLES
22 July 2023