

COTA in push for dying law reform

EXCLUSIVE

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THE Territory's peak body for seniors is launching a petition to the federal government to repeal a Private Member's Bill outlawing euthanasia, describing it as a violation of Territorians' "democratic rights".

Council on the Ageing (COTA) NT chief executive Sue Shearer (pictured) said yesterday the organisation, alongside other advocacy groups, were launching a petition to repeal the Bill which prevents the NT and ACT making laws around assisted dying.

Ms Shearer said the Bill preventing the NT from making its own choices was "unfair and unreasonable". "It is increasingly untenable as states around the country are passing legislation in this area. Territory citizens are

being denied their democratic rights and the choice for end of life decisions solely based on where they live," she said. "This situation should not be allowed to persist."

The NT became the first jurisdiction in the world to introduce assisted dying in 1995, passing the Rights of the Terminally Ill Act which allows a doctor to end the life of a terminally ill patient.

The legislation was overruled after former Federal MP Kevin Andrews led the charge on a Private Member's Bill which added a clause into the ACT and NT's Self Government Acts which undid the change and prevent future changes around euthanasia laws in both jurisdictions.

Mr Andrews was recently booted from the LNP when he failed to secure preselection for his seat of Menzies

The office of Attorney-General Christian Porter did not respond to a request for comment by deadline.