

## Parliamentary Inquiries Teacher Information Sheet

This document has been produced to support teachers preparing lessons on the function of Parliamentary Inquiries in Queensland. Below you will find links to various materials produced by, or submitted to, a committee during a recent inquiry.

### What is an inquiry?

The role of Parliamentary Committees is to inquire into and report on specific matters referred by the Parliament, or under the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001. Parliament can call on committees to inquire on bills before the house or on issues of public policy.

Members of the committee are generally not subject matter experts in the field of the inquiry, rather, it is their job to collect evidence from those who are. Evidence is collected in a number of different ways and varies depending on the nature of the inquiry and what the committee decides is appropriate. Methods include:

- inviting experts, organisations and interested individuals to give evidence;
- conducting literature reviews to gather relevant and current objective information; or
- conducting site visits where there is added value.

Committees analyse and synthesise this evidence in order to formulate a response to the inquiry terms of reference. Finally, the findings and recommendations are compiled in a report for Parliament.

## Case Study

### Inquiry into aged care, end-of-life and palliative care and voluntary assisted dying

On 14 November 2018, the Legislative Assembly referred an inquiry into aged care, end-of-life and palliative care to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. The committee conducted 41 hearings, gained evidence from 535 witnesses and received a total of 4,729 written submissions.

### Media Release

[Queenslanders encouraged to have their say on aged care, palliative care and voluntary assisted dying](#) – Committee Chair, Aaron Harper MP, 14 February 2019

→ This will help students understand what the committee has been asked to investigate. See page 2 for the terms of the inquiry.

### SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

- Research news reports and articles from the lead up to the inquiry. Analyse and describe the scope of community expectations of policy development in this area.
- Explain the role of Parliamentary inquiries in law reform (i.e. when committee investigation is not initiated by the introduction of a Bill).



### DURATION

1 to 3 lessons



### LEVEL

Years 5 to 12



Queensland Parliament's Health Committee calls for submissions!

a year ago · 3.1K views

23



queenslandparliament Make your voice heard 🗣️ Submissions for the or the aged-care, end-of-life care, palliative care and voluntary assisted dying inquiry close TODAY! Visit the link in our bio to find out how you can lodge your submission.

15 April 2019

Queensland Parliament @QueenslandParli - Oct 18, 2019  
The Health Committee's public hearing for the care inquiry is underway. The Committee is now hearing from Queensland Health. Tune in online here: [tp.parliament.qld.gov.au/Committees](http://tp.parliament.qld.gov.au/Committees)





## Issues Paper

[HCDSDFVPC Paper No. 3, 56th Parliament, February 2019](#)

→ This is a great place for students to start researching a topic. Issues papers give an overview of the key issues under investigation and may link to relevant inquiries in different jurisdictions.

### SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

- Use page 11 as a stimulus writing task to propose recommendations for this legal issue.

## Inquiry homepage

[Visit the inquiry webpage](#)

→ This provides links to public documents and resources which students can use to gather information about social divisions within the specific area of law reform.

23 August 2019 - Public hearing, Brisbane

→ Watching public hearings can give students insight into stakeholder contributions. A wide range of attitudes were presented at this particular hearing.

[Program](#) – [Broadcast](#) – [Transcript](#)

**Please note: Due to the sensitive and medical nature of evidence given in this inquiry teachers may wish to select specific content appropriate for their classes.**



### SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

- Compare the views shared by two different groups during the hearing using the broadcast or transcript. Analyse the challenges associated with end-of-life law reform.

## Reports

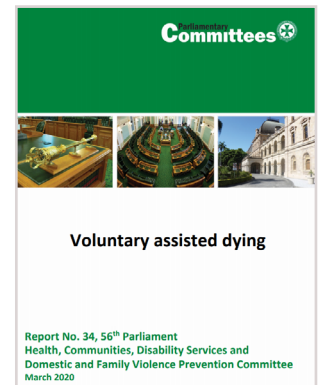
Due to the large scope of the inquiry, the committee released two reports and accompanying summary of findings.

1

[Report No. 33, 56<sup>th</sup> Parliament – Aged care, end-of-life and palliative care](#)  
[Summary of findings and recommendations](#)

2

[Report No. 34, 56<sup>th</sup> Parliament – Voluntary assisted dying](#)  
[Summary of findings and recommendations](#)



### SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

- Review the reports and summary of findings. Evaluate the committee recommendations and propose your own recommendations for reform.

#### Syllabus links

Unit 3: Law, governance and change

Topic 2: Law reform within a dynamic society

- explain the role of parliamentary inquiries
- select legal information and analyse the challenges to law reform, e.g. social divisions, government budgetary constraints, political pressures, the 'nanny state' and other barriers to legal change and evaluate possible alternatives to propose recommendations.
- select legal information and analyse legal issues then evaluate the situation to propose recommendations. The issue must be current, e.g. domestic and family violence, elder abuse, consumer fraud, defamation, privacy, cybercrime and forensics.
- select legal information, analyse and evaluate legal issues to propose recommendations (e.g. specific new legislation) that improve outcomes for those affected by the Australian or Queensland legal system, justify using legal criteria and discuss implications.