

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 10

Submitted by: Michael Wilson

Publication: Making the submission and your name public

Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill but recommend some changes to it.

Comments in relation to: Conscientious objection by either individuals or entities

Attachments: See attachment

Submitter Comments:

Submission regarding Institutional Objections to Voluntary Assisted Dying

This submission addresses the potential conflict of interests between a person who wishes to access assisted dying services in Queensland and an organisation or institution that objects to assisted dying on the basis of religious teachings of the organisation's owners/operators.

This question has been addressed exhaustively in the recent article by White, et al. (2021) published in the *UNSW Law Journal*. This submission seeks to highlight that in striking the balance in the favour of the requesting person at the end of life and the beliefs of those who own or operate the facility in which that requestor resides, the balance must be tipped in favour of protecting the vulnerable. In this case, that means protecting the person who is seeking access to a legal right.

The legislation should provide safety for the requesting person at the end of life in cases where assisted dying services are accessed outside the facility or inside the facility.

- In the case where assisted dying services are provided outside the facility because the organisation objects to the law, the organisation must be required to facilitate arrangements at no cost to the requestor for a transfer to another location, whether for assessment or administration.
- In the case where assisted dying services are provided inside the facility because the requesting person's interests could be harmed by a transfer the organisation must not impede either the administration of the medication or the person's self-administration.

Thank you for your consideration

Reference

White, B., Willmott, L., Close, E., & Downie, J. (2021). Legislative options to address institutional objections to voluntary assisted dying in Australia. *UNSW Law Journal*, 3, 1–17.