
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 20 May 2021 6:27 AM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: VAD bill

Dear Parliamentary Committee

Re. Drafting a new VAD Bill in Qld...

My thoughts are that the draft model as set out by the premier is inadequate, given the fact that we have a Dementia epidemic here in Australia (it's the #2 cause of death in Australian women).

Any VAD bill needs to factor in the fact that someone who has been diagnosed with Dementia is immediately excluded from VAD under the draft guidelines.

International VAD models need to be considered. e.g.,

The Dutch model uses a more logical approach, as it allows for the fact that patients do not need to be competent when VAD is carried out, provided a valid advance health directive was completed when they were competent. This is exactly the kind of model that I would advocate for Queensland – as it would work well for people afflicted by Alzheimer's – such as my late mother, and could be the saving grace for many others suffering this fate.

I implore the Committee to please consider that any VAD Bill must factor in Dementia. Please look at the statistics for Dementia in Queensland and the upcoming prognosis/ implications of these statistics for the Baby Boomer generation.

I would implore the Committee to please work in with Dementia Australia regarding this.

Yours sincerely

Naomi Taylor.

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