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From: Margaret Cassells [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 12:01 PM
To: The Premier [REDACTED]
Cc: Aspley Electorate Office [REDACTED]
Subject: VAD

Dear Premier, the Honourable Anastasia Palaszczuk,

Thank you for bringing the proposed VAD Bill to the Queensland Parliament yesterday.
I am grateful that we have got this far.

I voted for your Government's reelected. The promise of VAD legislation being attended to was my sole reason. I am counting on the Palaszczuk Government to act.

Many politicians and "church leaders" are often out of step with the will of the population in general eg, the marriage equality debate with a subsequent referendum producing an overwhelmingly positive vote.

Life is TERMINAL!!!! We are born. We live. We die.

A peaceful death (at the time of our choosing if that is required) should be our right not a criminal offence. With advanced pharmaceuticals this is entirely possible and appropriate. Unnecessary suffering and resulting trauma can be prevented.

We are more humane to our animals than our fellow human beings.

Time and disease restrictions are discriminatory.

No one can walk in another person's shoes! Quality NOT quantity is important. Why should medical knowledge keep us alive for the sake of keeping us alive. We should have autonomy over our own bodies. Dignity should be respected.

Very few of us have the financial resources to go to Switzerland as David Goodall was able to undertake. Earlier this year, Laura's story was on the television. Death is a normal end to our life cycles. Individuals should have the right to say when enough IS ENOUGH.

The circumstances of my own mother's death should never be visited on another family. Keeping watch as she starved & dehydrated to death over a month, begging to be allowed to die was totally inhuman. Frail aged, yes but Nora was totally aware cognitively until a couple of hours before her death. Her dignity and worth totally devalued in the process. That traumatic experience will only be taken from me by my own death.

It is on record that I presented in person to the Parliamentary Inquiry in August 2019. I have written to you before. I made a written submission to the QLRC. I have spoken up for myself but also for many others who will not or can not.

I am a Christian. I believe that God has given me intellect to use wisely about the many decisions I have and will face in the course of my living. Compassion & dignity should be afforded to all. Voluntary Assisted Dying is VOLUNTARY. It should be LEGAL. No one should be made to live if suffering is too intolerable for them.

Public discussion & education needs to be open & ongoing. Advanced Heath Directives should be required of citizens so that people's wishes have been recorded if they should loose capacity in the future. Being single with no dependants, I am fortunate that my brother, sister-in-law and two nieces understand & support my stance. There is an AHD. It should be protected legally.

Thank you for considering what I have written.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Cassells



Sent from my iPad