

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 156
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Position: I/We do not support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: The request and assessment process, Safeguards, Conscientious objection by either individuals or entities, Oversight and review
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

1. Palliative care is currently severely underfunded

Just recently Palliative Care Queensland called for an extra \$121 million in funding per year. Instead, the State Government provided only an extra \$28.5 million per year.

It's not right to offer euthanasia to the dying and vulnerable when so many are already missing out on the care they require and dying in pain as a result. It's said that euthanasia will provide a choice for those at the end of their lives. But for those many Queenslanders who are currently dying in pain because they don't have access to palliative care, how can we say that euthanasia is a choice? Euthanasia will not give real choice.

2. Doctors do not support the Bill

Our medical professionals know that the answer to suffering is properly funded and delivered Palliative Care, not euthanasia.

Australian Medical Association President Dr Chris Perry recently stated to media:

"People need to be kept comfortable in their dying times, and it's not by Voluntary Assisted Dying, it's by Palliative Care. So, I think they [the Government] should step up now and spend the money."

3. No conscientious objection

Section 84, Subsection 2 of the Bill states that if a medical professional has a conscientious objection to euthanasia, they must still provide the patient with information about someone who does support euthanasia. This means that doctors will be forced to participate in the process of euthanasia even if it goes against their conscience and professional judgement.

4. Open to abuse

We already know that many elderly Queenslanders are abused, mistreated and taken advantage of by the very people who are supposed to care for them - relatives, friends and carers.

As a result it is entirely plausible that many more will become victims under a Bill that takes away their right to life and care by offering assisted suicide instead.