

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 221
Submitted by: Michael Pfeffer
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We do not support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Conscientious objection by either individuals or entities
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I am a Doctor working in Remote Queensland. As we are a small town we get the pleasure of working closely with members of a small community. Quite regularly we provide palliative care to these same community members in both the hospital and home setting.

I am concerned that the media attention this topic is receiving seems ignorant of the exceptional level of care which can and is already being provided (funding permitting). I'm sure as your aware by the nature of palliative care the participants who have had exceptional and dignified interactions with the health care service are not longer around to voice their support.

I am also concerned this bill does pose risk for abuse in vulnerable populations as has been demonstrated in countries with similar legislation. This risk may be acceptable in some circumstances where balanced by a competing benefit however in this case where there is a very real risk to a vulnerable population, I can see minimal benefit given the pre-existing access to palliative care.