

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 248
Submitted by: William Smith
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Other
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I believe that it is the right of the individual to choose how one will die whether it be through natural causes or via assistance in dying. I do not think the way I end my life should be dictated by government, the law or churches. I believe that overseas examples of voluntary assisted dying demonstrate that this process can be carried out in a way that totally respects the wishes of the individual; and the assessment processes and controls means it is not a system that is abused and used to rid families or the community of vexatious and nuisance individuals. Because Queensland does not have VAD those who want to end their life are having to do it in secrecy, often using extreme and dangerous methods and often in ways and circumstances that prevent them from saying their farewells to family and friends. I also believe that whilst it is the role of governments and the law to lead and moderate; it is also their role to listen to the times and the voice of the people. The overwhelming majority of voting adult Queenslanders support VAD - over 75%. It is the role of the elected politicians to support the views of this majority. I do not believe that individual politicians have the right to vote against the VAD legislation simply based on their personal and religious views. If they are unwilling to support the views of the people then I believe they should abstain from voting as they have no authority to put their personal views about the wishes of the people.