
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 19 June 2021 11:28 AM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: I support the passing of the VAD just one point I would like addressed and changed

Dear Members of the Committee,
I have read the current draft Bill a few times now and I find it a well balanced, thoughtful document.

Having had extensive experience professionally and personally supporting and caring for dying people. I agree about the need for the people of Queensland to have access to the freedom of choice to die with dignity.

I want the right to choose my care as I have for 72 years. I am an independent, lucid, and free thinking woman.

Who has made personal life choices for myself and discussed these with family and friends. Currently, I lead a full, happy life but want the peace of mind to know I can continue making my own decisions.

And, whilst I would have palliative care I also want to have the right to choose how I die. I live in regional Queensland and I want this autonomy maintained, in any facility I may be living at that time.

I do not want the belief system of the owners of that facility negating on my decision making ability. As apparently this has happened in my former home the State of Victoria.

Palliative care is an essential service and there should be more Centres of Excellence. Unfortunately, these are not widely available in all areas of Australia. Also, some will argue that if more palliative care was available a VAD Bill would not be needed. I disagree as it is debatable that all physical pain can be totally alleviated. And in my opinion not all pain is physical. I am sure other submissions will cover emotional and psychological issues.

My primary reason for submitting is about which health professional can initiate discussion about VAD. I believe from my reading of the draft Bill a Doctor or Nurse Practitioner (NP) will be legally allowed to broach the subject with a patient. But administering the medication has a broader range of health professionals involved.

Including Registered Nurses with the appropriate training, and five years experience.

I disagree that the 'broaching the subject' section of the Bill should be limited to a Nurse Practitioner. This section should include registered nurses. I have studied the statistics Australia wide and State by State. The data shows whilst Queensland has more NP's than other States, but it is still a very small amount compared to Registered Nurses. A Registered Nurse is able according to the Draft Bill explain options to a patient IF asked.

I believe this will limit the information rights of all Queenslanders.

Therefore, I respectfully ask the Committee to alter this section.

Yours Sincerely,

