

Joy Bound

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Re: Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 - Is this quality medical care?

Committee Secretary

Dear Doctor Dewar

I am writing to you with great concern for the elderly, sick and vulnerable in our state.

According to the Commonwealth Criminal Code, it is currently “illegal to use a phone, videoconference, email or other electronic communication to publish or distribute material that counsels or incites committing, or attempting to commit, suicide.”

The Premier has asked the Prime Minister to urgently amend this law. She wants doctors to be able to approve assisted suicide over the phone or in a video conference. They wouldn’t have to meet with the patient, or look them in the eyes, while discussing the irreversible, intensely personal decision to take their own lives. Refer to section 14 (3) The person may make the request verbally or by gestures or other means of communication available to the person.

Is this quality medical care?

Medical Practitioners can conscientiously object to coordinate or consult as a medical practitioner but then they are forced by the legislation to go against their conscience by having to refer the person onto someone who will.

Who do you care about here?

Doctors and Nurses have taken oaths to preserve lives. They in community surveys are the most trusted members of society. This Bill undermines the integrity of the Medical and Nursing Professions health care mandate. And will create a distance between being a good care provider and advocate for the people they care for, and being used by this law and often against conscience to assist people to die early.

Is this coercion by government?

You say in the Bill that there will be a navigator service an official voluntary assisted dying service to provide support, assistance and information relating to dying.

But there is no mention of help that takes into consideration that the person may be struggling and depressed with the situation they find themselves in with no one to whom they can turn to for advice. Just as in the video on YouTube Jaya Taki who was coerced into having an abortion she did not want. The people she hoped would give her advice designated by the law only gave her one option. She wanted to die at the time, she was greatly suffering. This bill gives no other option for sufferers.

This is wrong. Queenslanders deserve better treatment, especially when it comes to deciding if they’re going to take their own life.

I have worked as a Registered Nurse in Queensland hospitals and age care facilities for over 40yrs. I have met many kind and selfless care givers. Medical, nursing staff, and carers (with no or little qualifications), but plenty of love to give to the people they care for. I have also witnessed, cruel, dislike, and hatred from health care providers, for the fragile elderly, sick and vulnerable people they are supposed to care for and who hide their true colours. This Bill opens a door that might change how we care for the elderly we might lose our compassion for the sick when our mind set is changed from caring for the suffering and dying person to the end of his or her life and initiating Euthanasia conversation in order to save money on the use of a hospital bed.

On A Current affair last week and on YouTube, Gabe Watkins waited a whole year for Queensland Health Ethics Committee to decide not to give her a tracheostomy to aid her breathing for Motor Neuron Disease and the reasons given was such a bad lie. That it would not be good medical practice and that Gabe Watkins would negatively impact on other patients by taking up an intensive care bed. She had family support and was with the aid of technology able to clearly state her wishes to live and see her family grow up. And she had 24hr care.

The Voluntary assisted dying 2021 Bill should not be allowed to go ahead, because of people like Gabe Watkins. Patients who have entered a hospital, hospice, or care facility with a terminal illness, could be placed in the same situation as Gabe or pressured into assisted dying all in the name of caring.

Sincerely,
Joy Bound
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