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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 11 June 2021 12:52 AM  
**To:** Health and Environment Committee  
**Subject:** Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 - So many problems with VAD Bill

Re: Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 - So many problems with VAD Bill

Dear Health and Environment Committee,

I have been a Personal Care Worker and Registered Nurse on and off for over a decade. In nursing there are different dimensions to health, health should be reviewed holistically. Each body system works in conjunction with other systems. In the media of recent the correlation between gut health (microbiome diversity) can have correlations to poor/good mood. Also Covid-19 instigated a lot of poor Mental Health (MH) outcomes. The Bill effectively says to stop treating the psychological and physical pain as death cuts you off completely. Therefore, does it send a message to society that if you are not perfect, society cuts you off, totally? With MH generally people are not of sound mind. Assault, PTSD, if they can't pursue the right avenues of healing can this effectively hide wrongs perpetrated towards them? Is there a potential for criminal activity or unintentional manslaughter based on misguided information? Also, financial abuse of the elderly cannot be discounted. Are people not worthy for tests of healing to refine their holistic health? When you are nothing, sometimes you hold on to anything; usually hope. Euthanasia is self-deprivation to hope. Everyone needs faith/hope and it is a hard thing to grasp and see forward. Will our society be encouraged to forget the attributes of glimpsing mercy and grace towards each other, or does our community say, "Kill yourself regardless of your circumstances."

Subtle diversion tactics, such as gaslighting is bullying and can instigate/exacerbate MH concerns. To avoid retaliation from this Bill of jail time there is a potential that people may disregard options to investigate the above, essentially becoming an unwilling party to an individual's suicide ideation?

Who are we to take away the "potential" of joy from someone's life? How can you know real joy without experiencing the disappointment of failure/pain? Thomas Edison who invented the light bulb said, "I have not failed. I just found 10,000 ways that won't work." If these laws pass, healthcare workers hand over a great deal of our professional responsibility to explore options that promote healing for holistic self-autonomy. A Doctor's intellectual capacity to exercise their duty to their best understanding is annulled to a significant degree. Does being a puppet attract the most innovative and brightest individuals to the medical profession? Are we giving ourselves the challenge to be at the cutting edge of improving MH services, or mitigating earlier death with a construed possibility of saving resources? It is always easier to kill, but where does firm ethics stand?

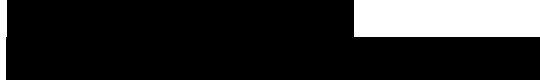
Euthanasia does not promote rapport with patients and their families, especially over the phone. Rapport is essential to build trust, if you don't have trust with your patients you will never gather accurate subjective data from them. I am changing jobs and this Bill goes against the hospitals values that I will be working at. Respect - killing doesn't promote esteeming someone in a positive light. Empathy - how can I put myself in someone's position when I am desensitised to healing mental health. Honesty - am I being true to my ethics or should I leave the profession? Courtesy - annulling someone's life is false politeness? Fairness - have we actually explored all options? Euthanasia justified on the grounds of psychological and physical pain does not acknowledge that as a nurse, a large portion of my day is assessing and controlling pain in consultation with the medical officer. Palliative care that is resourced in aged care homes with an attached medical centres are good options because it minimises ED/Hospital admissions. With Covid-19 there was a large concern that intensive care units would be filled to capacity and breaking point (ventilators were not sufficiently helpful) and also that many people could die from Covid-19. Promoting Euthanasia is an

insincere contradiction to a Qld premier stating she wants to keep us safe (presuming she meant alive) from a pandemic.

Death certificate not stating death, 7 years potential jail time if talk someone out of Euthanasia is ripe for deceit. It basically come across that hope, healing is not the way forward and is illegal in our democratic society. I feel my Nursings Code of Conduct - would conflict with this Bill and I don't know where I stand. Working as a nurse, if someone doesn't value the life of their patient they are dangerous healthcare workers who make poor team players and leaders. In other countries I always thought a devalued sense of life was a poor outcome of 3rd world countries. This Bill does not induce a sense of being free and self-autonomy is not offered due respect in terms of exploring all options.

When I had a palliative patient who had family/friends that were not physically able to come I usually had staff who knew them the most (agreed by all parties) to at times sit/partake in their cares during their final hours. Having a person present meant so, so much to these people. And some of these people had trauma in their life. Humans cannot function alone, we are social beings. Giving someone your time, your friendship and your love tells a person that their physical presence is important to me and they have value to give to society. Well resourced palliative care is fundamental to managing comfort levels. I do not think we can beguile people into thinking they have nothing to give and strongly believe there are reprisals.

Sincerely,  
Siobhan Rathbone



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