
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 15 June 2021 9:00 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: Submission to the Health Committee

Re: Submission to the Health Committee

Dear Health Committee Members,

I write here to express my opposition to the proposed Voluntary Assisted Dying bill that is due to be debated and voted on in Queensland Parliament in September.

The Fact is that Voluntary Assisted Dying is voluntary assisted killing. I am appalled that Queenslanders with a 12 month prognosis who are over 18 years old would be eligible for euthanasia or assisted suicide, upon the approval of two doctors with no requirement for those requesting assisted suicide to be assessed by a mental health expert like a psychiatrist or an expert in the field of the disease the patient is suffering from.

My elderly father is dying. He like many Queenslanders is in need of good quality palliative care and thankfully this is happening. For many though, this is not. The government needs to invest in quality palliative care programs and really show that it cares for its citizens who are dying, allowing them to die well and with dignity, but not by assisted suicide. In relation to the latter, there may be some who would be killed who would otherwise survive and live well given the right care. Last year I saw my father return to good health after a period of him being gravely ill. He became independent for a time. He is ill now but deserves the best of care as do all Queenslanders in every part of the State.

There is a fine line between involuntary and voluntary assisted dying but it is my fear that this slim line would pale into insignificance once the proposed bill is legalised. This bill has the potential for great harm.

Sincerely,
Jackie Carlyle

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