
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 16 June 2021 9:39 AM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: Submission to the Health Committee

Re: Submission to the Health Committee

Dear Health Committee Members,

I hope this email finds you well. :)

I am writing today to express my deep concerns and opposition for the Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021.

My concerns and opposition for this Bill arise due to the following issues this Bill raises:

- There is no requirement for those requesting assisted suicide to be assessed by a mental health expert like a psychiatrist, yet mental anguish and depression is often one of the main drivers for requests for euthanasia, as data from other jurisdictions shows.
- There is no requirement for a patient to be seen by a specialist in the area of the patient's suffering (e.g. an oncologist for cancer patients), or by a palliative care specialist.
- Death certificates would be falsified for people who access 'assisted dying' to record their underlying sickness as the cause of death instead of suicide or euthanasia.
- My gravest concern, is that there would be an increase in non-assisted suicide and general suicide rates because of a suicide cognation effect. This effect often accompanies euthanasia or assisted suicide being legalised, as we are currently seeing in the state of Victoria.

These are but a few of my concerns among many for this Bill.

Queensland has a woeful palliative care funding deficit to the tune of about \$275 million per year according to Palliative Care Queensland. I believe the solution to end-of-life suffering is further investment into palliative care in Queensland and valuing human life, especially those who are sick, in pain, disabled and vulnerable.

Please, say no the Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021. Advocating and allowing this Bill to pass means you are saying yes to assisted suicide.

Sincerely,
Danielle Davis

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