
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 16 June 2021 12:00 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: Submission to the Health Committee

Re: Submission to the Health Committee

Dear Health Committee Members,

Dear Qld Parl. Health Committee,

I have read the information about what Voluntary Assisted Dying would involve and believe it should not be introduced. There are many reasons for this statement:

1. It will be a highly dangerous law if used wrongly when people have clinical depression, or temporary circumstances where they see now way to go on coping with mental health issues. This could be alleviated with counselling and support. Many who ring Life line have testified that they were glad someone was there to help through their darkest hour.(I undertook the Life line study and phone calls in Darwin 2013-2014 and we learnt this in our training)
2. Many doctors and Nurses don't want to assist a person to die and yet this law proposes they have to. That is unethical.
3. The Nurses association is against this act, which says volumes. (I have been an Enrolled nurse for 5 yrs earlier in life and would agree its wrong to make nurses have to join in VAD acts)
4. The UK has 6 times forbidden this law and pointed out the dangers.
5. I am currently a chaplain and have met patients who receive superb palliative care and are given love and compassion to he end, and some miraculously recover against all odds. I believe more funding for palliative care is needed in Qld. The palliative care at T'ville hospital is brilliant due to the dedication of the nurses and doctors.
6. The medical profession I work with have a dedication to save lives in Emergency, ICU, surgical and medical wards that is outstanding. If VAD is introduced this team effort to save lives could totally change the moral. I witnessed this in Darwin where there was early intervention to not try to bring people out of a coma after car accidents and the rehab section was closed for several years so no money was put into the rehab side...This could happen with VAD coming in. At present Rehab wards do amazing work to help a person regain their independence and mobility.
7. Christians value life in a way that esteems each person as equal and see any early intervention of taking a life early as against God's laws and will. It is belie that god will hold us account for taking any lives before their time. It is a value I believe in but many others who are not Christians also hold this value of life. If medical staff are forced to attend a VAD and assist it will be asking them to be part of the act of taking a life. It will go against their conscience.
9. The VAD proposal says that no health check is needed if a person chooses VAD. That is contrary to the medical ethics of our country based on the Hippocratic oath they take as doctors.
8. Lastly, we live in a generation of abuse and its easy to see how a loved one who has money may be persuaded to end their life early and leave their will to a family members who is/are pressuring them. There are also cases of marital abuse where one partner has money and another wants it. There are also already some murders of partners to gain money. We don't have to look far to see how others could persuade a person to ask for VAD, and to manipulate that person, especially if they are unwell or frail or not able to reason well.

Sincerely,
gail Petherick

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