
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 16 June 2021 4:43 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: Submission to the Health Committee

Re: Submission to the Health Committee

Dear Health Committee Members,

Euthanasia should have no place in our society. It is the direct killing of a human being and is never morally acceptable. This is simply state-sanctioned killing and requires doctors to 'play god'. No doctor should be involved in making decisions to end the life of a patient. Doctors should care for their patients not kill them.

Death is part of life. It is often a taboo topic. It can create feelings of anxiety, especially when we think about our own death. It is difficult to watch a loved one battle illness. I speak from personal experience. I have worked in medical and oncology wards and in aged care. I have seen firsthand people receiving palliative care. Yes, this can be confronting but it can also demonstrate how we value the human person. I witnessed the loving dedication of many staff who ensured that pain was alleviated through the palliative care. Our discomfort about death should not lead to a call for euthanasia. We should demonstrate that the life of all human beings is of value by improving palliative care services so love and compassion triumph over fear, despair, and hopelessness.

If assisted suicide laws are passed, this will make a mockery of suicide prevention and aged care reforms. It sends a message that if you are in pain then killing yourself is an option – that life has no point if you are in pain. Euthanasia will result in the usual 'slippery slope' where more and more people will call for the 'right' to end their life with the help of the government and medical personnel. It seems extremely inconsistent of government to implement measures to improve aged care and address suicide yet at the same time legalise assisted dying.

No doctor can ever predict how long a person has to live. From personal experience, a family friend passed away recently after a battling with cancer. If this person had been able to choose euthanasia (based on the doctor's life expectancy prediction) this person would have missed out on another couple of 'extra' years of life. Instead, these couple of years were spent with family and friends and the person's pain was managed through palliative care.

Euthanasia places doctors and medical facilities that stand against the killing of sick people in positions where they have to choose between breaking the law or going against their conscience. This will also erode the trust patients have in their doctors. Once again, doctors should be there to care for their patients not kill them. Euthanasia is not about personal choice or freedom as it involves another person, namely the doctor, who is meant to heal and alleviate suffering not directly kill a person. It is impossible to make euthanasia safe as vulnerable individuals are involved. These individuals may already see themselves as a burden and legalising euthanasia will place undue pressures on sick individuals to select assisted dying especially if it is being suggested by a medical professional. The terminally ill will be susceptible to coercion.

State sanctioned killing has no place in Queensland in the year 2021. We have access to one of the world's best health systems – why do we need to kill sick people? Surely in this day and age we can provide the best of palliative care to members of our community who are sick and let them know that they are still valued.

Sincerely,
Majella Eva



Prepared by OneClickPolitics (tm) at www.oneclickpolitics.com. OneClickPolitics provides online communications tools for supporters of a cause, issue, organization or association to contact their elected officials. For more information regarding our policies and services, please contact info@oneclickpolitics.com