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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 16 June 2021 5:58 PM  
**To:** Health and Environment Committee  
**Subject:** Submission to the Health Committee

Re: Submission to the Health Committee

Dear Health Committee Members,

I'm disappointed that your government has lodged the Voluntary assisted dying bill in Qld Parliament. I have written to my State member Lance McCallum and he advised that I send my concerns on to you.

I do not agree that this bill should be passed by your committee on behalf of the state without further consultation and surveying on the population.

Can you please tell me how will you be seeking the opinions of the general public before the September closing/vote?

I'm a nurse and have looked after palliative patients and been present in rooms when people die. I believe that we give world class care here in Qld, yes there are limitations and more can & should be done to support nurses/patients - but I don't believe that this bill is the answer. Doctors & Health staff (modern medical procedures/medication) currently do all the can to keep palliative patients pain free & nurses treat these patients with the highest dignity.

I believe that this bill undermines this level of care, devalues the importance of human life & the journey that patients & families experience when they/loved one has a terminal illness.

I have concerns that if this bill I passed that Terminally ill patients will feel pressurised into signing the documents so that their family doesn't experience the 'perceived' burden of their illness (that it's the right thing to do), or some family members will strongly encourage the patient to sign (Elder abuse cases have been documented – selfishness over proposed will/financial gain). I believe that this bill will put more pressure on the terminally ill – they have enough decisions to make at that time and now you are offering for them to kill themselves!

I support Cherish Life organisation, they have stated in their official campaign against legalising state-sanctioned killing:

Legalisation of assisted suicide would expose the vulnerable, elderly and terminally ill to pressure – real or imagined – to do the “right thing” and request death so they are not a “burden on their family”. The so called “right to die” would become the “duty to die”.

It would also lead to many wrongful deaths including those from wrong prognosis, wrong diagnosis, elder abuse, coercion, suicide cognation, and poor or no access to palliative care services.

I look forward to hearing your response to my email against the Proposed Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill.

Yours Sincerely,  
Kirsten Anstey

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Kirsten A Anstey