

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 659
Submitted by: Penny Hackett
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Conscientious objection by either individuals or entities, Other
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Having followed the passage of VAD laws around the country with interest. I believe the proposed QLD Bill to be very well crafted and applaud the work done by the QLRC and its focus on ensuring that minimising patients suffering is taken into account in determining the safeguards. I am also very pleased to see the inclusion of a specific regime for conscientious objection which makes it clear that the patient must not be abandoned.

However I am very concerned that these provisions will be watered down in the debate and institutions will be allowed to deny access to vulnerable patients who have a legal right to VAD. Make no mistake, some groups will actively obstruct access to patients who find themselves in a religious institution - often the only option available to them. This is already happening in Victoria and is deeply unfair (and unchristian).. Please stick to the original intention of the bill.

Also, I'm sure you will be under pressure to reduce the prognosis requirement from 12 months to 6 months. Having witnessed the miserable, painful prolonged final year of my beloved friend slowly dying from breast cancer, it is cruel to require such a limited period when it can take months to go through the approval process.