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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 21 June 2021 12:59 PM  
**To:** Health and Environment Committee  
**Subject:** I oppose the "Voluntary Assisted Dying" Bill

Re: I oppose the "Voluntary Assisted Dying" Bill

Dear Health Committee Members,

I strongly oppose the "Voluntary Assisted Dying" Bill for a myriad of reasons but most importantly because of the message this bill sends, That some lives are not worth living.

It is said that euthanasia will provide a choice for those thought to be at the end of their life. However, with inqutable access to euthansia and palliative care, euthanasia will not give real choice. This proposed law would allow people with a 12 month prognosis to access euthanasia straight away, but they many not be able to access palliative care until a few months or even weeks before end of life. Furthermore, this bill does not require the patient to e seen by a palliative care specialist. How then is it possible to make an informed choice?

There have been many calls for substantial increases to palliative care funding form the Australian Medical Association. These calls have been callously ignored with the State Governemnts continued underfunding of this vital health service. Insteading of funding Euthanasia,(a form of suicide) the Governement should be investing more in Palliative care. Euthanasia is not healthcare, it is killing!

I also hold grave concerns for the pressure this bill could inadvertantly place on the sick and elderly in our state. This bill does not require a patienet to be seen a specialist in the area of the patients suffering or a palliative care specialist. Even more alarming, the bill requires not mental health checks and trying to talk someone out of assisted suicide could put you in jail for up to 7 years. How is this best care for vunerable members of our society? Mental anguish and depression is often one fo the main drivers for requests for euthanasia, as data from other jurisdictions shows. This proposed bill offers no protection against this.

It seems ironic that while on one hand we are fighting against an alarming rise in the suicide rate, yet at the same time the government is advicating for assisted suicide.

I stongly oppose the passing of this bill!

Sincerely,  
Joanne Rickards