
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 22 June 2021 1:22 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,

Dear Members,

I oppose the assisted suicide bill.

In Qld, we have too many deaths by suicide. Millions of dollars are spent in suicide prevention programs. Suicide is tragic, and has many victims beyond the person who has chosen to end their life.

In spite of this, if a person wishes to end their life, at any time, for any reason, it is their choice. This choice should never involve a third party, be it legislation, a doctor or a family member.

In my experience, I have never been touched by suicide and simultaneously seen it promoted as "healthcare" or "brave" or "progressive". It is exclusively tragic and beyond comprehension and it destroys communities.

Doctors who both protect life and kill it cannot be trusted. I will have no way of knowing if a physician in a public hospital will want to help me or harm me. And worse, if they don't want to harm me they could be forced to be complicit in the process.

I have read many testimonies around assisted suicide, and almost always it is a family member or friend staying how hard the death of a loved one was for them. Is assisted suicide for the benefit of the patient or the carer? Perhaps society needs some education around resilience and their fear of death, rather than just "cleaning death up" for the benefit of those that can't face it.

I sat with my best friend, in her final weeks and then hours. I was with her when she passed away. I helped her family members through the next few days and with arrangements. My friend was young. It was cruel, it was tragic, it was at times ugly. But it was also life (and death) and it was real, and no person should take this process into their own hands and their own timing.

I understand that is far more cost-effective to administer a needle or some poison than to purchase chemo drugs or provide a higher standard of palliative care. Is this your legacy? Selling out quality care for cheaper and convenient options? Shame on anyone who wants this. Shame.

I call on the same government who was elected on the back of "saving lives" from covid to save the lives of people who might make us uncomfortable.

Kind Regards, Deb.

Sincerely,
Deb M