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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 23 June 2021 3:07 PM  
**To:** Health and Environment Committee  
**Subject:** VAD Submission

This is let you know that I am a very passionate supporter of Voluntary Assisted Dying and have been so ever since my husband suffered a prolonged, undignified and painful death. Nursing him scarred me for life. Watching him fade away to a skeleton and not being able to do anything about it.

I also helped nurse five other members of my family, who each in their own way suffered pain and indignity at the end of their lives.

I have no argument with the very small number of mostly very religious people who object to this law. Nothing will change for them if they don't want to take advantage of it. But please let the vast majority of people have a choice. That is what it is all about - having a choice.

Marj Lawrence  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 23 June 2021 3:32 PM  
**To:** Health and Environment Committee  
**Subject:** VAD law

I would like to comment on the absence of allowing for dementia patients in the proposed Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill.

Dementia is a very serious condition and feared more than anything else, including cancer, in older people. Many countries around the world are realising the burgeoning dilemma of coping with this condition and, if they haven't already done so, are extending their VAD laws to cope with this issue.

I would like to see the state of Queensland lead other states by having a law that will allow relief, by way of an advanced directive, when the person is of sound mind, that if they were to suffer from dementia, when it reached a stage where they were totally dependant on other people, then their life could be ended.

The following statistics were provided by Dementia Australia.

- Dementia is the **second leading cause of death** of Australians.[1]
- In 2016 dementia became the leading cause of death of Australian women, surpassing heart disease which has been the leading cause of death for both men and women since the early 20th century. In 2017, dementia remained the first leading cause of death of women, and the third leading cause of death of men. Overall, accounting for 13,729 deaths[1]
- In 2021, there are an estimated 472,000 Australians living with dementia[3] Without a medical breakthrough, the number of people with dementia is expected to increase to 590,000 by 2028 and 1,076,000 by 2058[3]
- Three in 10 people over the age of 85 and almost one in 10 people over 65 have dementia[2]
- In 2021, there were an estimated 28,300 people with younger onset dementia, expected to rise to 29,350 people by 2028 and 41,250 people by 2058[3]
- In 2021, it is estimated that almost 1.6 million people in Australia are involved in the care of someone living with dementia[4]

Marj Lawrence  
[REDACTED]