
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 23 June 2021 10:20 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: Proposed Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill

We wish to make the following submission;

We firmly reject this proposed Bill for the following reasons.

1. Voluntary assisted dying is simply another name for legalised suicide and/or euthanasia. This is contrary to the ethics of the medical profession and to most members of the community, which aims to preserve life, not take it away.
2. Despite all the precautions against error as listed in the Bill, there will always be the possibility of error or abuse of the system. Experience in other countries has shown that it is not possible to provide adequate safeguards against unscrupulous use of these activities, There are examples in history e.g. Nazi Germany in W.W.2 to show that mankind is capable of such abuse.
3. People targeted by this legislation are among the most vulnerable in our society. They would be under stress for many reasons and their state of mind compromised. There is no provision for a psychiatric assessment to be made before any decision.
4. Conscientious objection by health workers, church based health providers whose charter is opposed to euthanasia is not permitted. This could impact negatively on a person's employment status or their career.
5. The value and ethics of our health care institutions would be eroded as it could treat vulnerable people as expendable.
6. Inheritance impatience is real in our society and would be encouraged by euthanasia laws.
7. The recent Royal Commission into aged care, disability, child abuse and mental health exposed serious deficiencies with respect to elder abuse and the aged care system in general.
8. Adequate investment in palliative care would reduce any justification for this Bill.

With respect

Allen Brian Thomson and Elin Mary Thomson

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