
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 27 June 2021 4:12 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. If this Bill is enacted I believe the death rate in Queensland would rise dramatically and many would be wrongful deaths by people that feel they are a burden on society or feel they have no other option. No one should ever be made feel this way.

I would like to start with a personal example. A family member was diagnosed with a very painful cancer and the doctors gave him a few (three) months to live. Had this Bill been in place and assisted suicide accessed; his life may have ended then. However our family member enjoyed another 2 and a half; nearly 3 years at home with his family and also got to see his new grand daughter before he passed. If he was asked if the extra time was worth it, I guarantee his answer would have been yes!

I do not believe assisted suicide is the answer. But every Queensland has the right to high quality palliative care. If funding was increased to meet the huge deficit and palliative care was an option for those in need, I believe our vulnerable would be far more comfortable and protected and the sanctity of life also would remain.

Human life is valuable and in our Western society taking of a life - your own or someone elses was once seen as a crime and wrong. We were once horrified to hear of someone taking their own life because of their circumstances, and now this Bill seeks to make it legal. If this Bill is indeed passed as law - life will no longer be sacred.

People will feel they have no other option and even begin to feel they are expected to euthanise themselves so as not to be a burden on society and we will begin to expect them to also.

The Australian Medical Association and also the Nurses Professional Association of Queensland are opposed to euthanasia and assisted suicide. Also 107 of the 109 World Medical Associations are opposed to euthanasia as it isn't a medical treatment and is considered dangerous. Our government should take heed to the voices of those who are trained to care for our most vulnerable.

I don't believe safe guards are enough to protect lives as the boundaries are always widened and laid flat eventually.

Laws shape our society, they mould our view point and attitudes and behaviour. They also mould that of our children. Have we become that heartless as a state and a nation that life is no longer special and sacred?

Sincerely,
Jennifer Hochmuth