
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 28 June 2021 8:50 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 am writing to oppose a Bill that goes against the wishes and professional opinion of the majority of specialists who work in the medical arena of palliative care.

Perhaps this is an initiative of the Queensland Labor Government to help them avoid their responsibility of providing health care to Queenslanders. This government oversees a hospital system that has a measly 134 dedicated beds for palliative care patients. Statistically where this sort of legislation has been introduced, suicide rates have increased for both those in palliative care and those who are in the general population. It can easily be seen that where people have died this reduces the need to provide a hospital bed for them. The \$275,000,000 funding deficit per year of the Queensland Government in Palliative care demonstrates their lack of support for a needy hospital health care system. Where societies accept this demeaning of human life by supporting euthanasia, history shows the decline of that society.

This Bill would allow candidates for selective dying to make such a choice while they are depressed and lacking mental health support afforded to most other sections of the community. The process requires the acknowledgement of two doctors, nether of whom needed to have have gained the qualification of those four years of Palliative Care education to bring their awareness of the spiritual, mental and social elements relative to health care of an individual stressed by the concerns of what could be felt as a bleak future. The vulnerable patient could be allowed the choice to kill themselves twelve months ahead of the projected date of death, but would not be offered in all likelihood, the palliative care services for at least another six months, should they choose to continue living.

The health care system provides for specialists to best support the life of the person nearing the end of a healthy life. Such specialists are for example an Oncologist for those suffering cancer. Although it is a provision seen as pertinent to those who desire to keep on living, it is seen as not relevant to those who may want to contemplate assisted dying. Such support is not required to be available to the person who would consider assisted dying. Likewise there is no requirement for an evaluation of mental health thought life by a Psychologist for those who are contemplating assisted dying, many of whom would be suffering a form of depression at the time.

There is a horrible component of this legislation that goes beyond the life of the person considering assisted dying and imposes itself on many in the community who are in existence because of their charter to improve the quality of life to people and their families. The legislation forces community organisations such as aged care homes to support the administering of poison to kill the loved one living in their aged care home facility. Doctors who are opposed to euthanasia or assisted dying would be forced to refer their patients for this form of induced death.

This Bill is an extreme measure that is not supported by the majority of people and not supported by the medical profession. Why do politicians assume the role of social engineers when they have no training in this field and speedily 'progress' into uncharted waters at the expense of the vulnerable general public who will suffer the consequences of such legislation almost immediately into the future.

Please do not support this horrific Bill of euthenasia.

Sincerely,
Peter. Williams

