
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 28 June 2021 10:00 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 cannot emphasise enough my opposition to this bill.

My opposition is based on the following:

1. The very name of the bill hides its real character: euthanasia. Why not just be up front about it and call it the Euthanasia Bill. Assisted dying is suicide. Period.
2. The two approving doctors can be junior General Practitioners with little or no specialised training in end-of-life management
To want to die goes against the human instinct to want to survive. Such a desire cannot be casually assessed by inexperienced doctors.
3. I have grave concerns that, like Victoria, there would be an increase in non-assisted suicide rates because of a suicide cognation effect that often accompanies euthanasia or assisted suicide being legalised.
4. Doctors with a conscientious objection to euthanasia should not be forced to refer the patient to doctors who support euthanasia. They should be allowed to simply withdraw their medical services without fear or favour.
5. In like manner, health institutions whose charter is opposed to euthanasia (eg, Catholic Health Australia and Uniting Care) should not be forced to refer patients who qualify for euthanasia upon request nor should they be forced to have their premises used for acts of euthanasia.
6. And likewise, no one should face the prospect of jail for counselling a patient against euthanasia. This is a free country, where people are free to practice their beliefs.
7. 12 month prognosis factor: Why does Qld need to be different than other jurisdictions where a 6 month prognosis is required for referral for euthanasia.
8. Related to point 7, this bill creates an inequitable access to euthanasia and palliative care. At the very least, a patient should have access to palliative care for the same prognosis as euthanasia, viz 12 months.
9. It is cynical to make a provision to record "cause of death" as the underlying condition rather than "euthanasia". Let's at least let health professionals record the true reason for death. In this way, the true extent of euthanasia will be available to properly assess the impact of the provisions of this bill.

In the name of the survival of western civilization, I ask you to recommend that this bill be withdrawn entirely. If this is contrary to government policy, then at least draft it such that it:

- provides more equitable access to palliative care,
- respects the right of medical professions to exercise their desire and their hippocratic oath to protect life,
- allows institutions to uphold their charter of opposition to euthanasia
- allows anyone to counsel a patient against euthanasia

Sincerely,
Rosario Musumeci

[REDACTED]