
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 28 June 2021 11:14 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: Submission re VAD draft bill

Dear Health Committee,

I wish to submit the following regarding the draft Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill:

> I support the draft VAD Bill.

> I agree it is essential that Queenslanders in regional, rural and remote areas must have equity of access to choices as outlined in this Bill. It is essential that Drs are able to communicate with each other and their patients via electronic means. All other medical records (test results, drs letters, etc) are shared electronically currently. With end stage heart failure, it is increasingly difficult for me to leave the house. If I wished to discuss my prognosis and palliative care arrangements, including for example sharing updated advanced health care directives and DNR (do not resuscitate) orders with multiple centres (treating hospital, palliative care facility, local gp etc), I would rely on electronic means (scanned copies). It is essential that VAD, if legal, is allowed to be part of these conversations and emails - in fact I don't think it will be workable to exclude it.

> I agree that Queenslanders must be able to access VAD no matter where they live, including retirement homes.

> I agree that Conscientious objectors should not be forced to participate, nor should they be allowed to prevent participation in VAD by others. Of particular concern is religious organisations forcing their views on their patients. If I wished to access out of home palliative care, or required hospital treatment at the end of life, it is a genuine fear and concern that the facility I'm taken to would deny access to VAD. I've been visited in hospital without consent by the hospital chaplain while in a vulnerable condition, when I explicitly noted I am an atheist on admission forms. Laws must describe exactly how VAD is to be managed to ensure equity of access for all, regardless of the facility, and include checks to ensure compliance by all service providers.

Yours sincerely,
Leigh Bell,

[REDACTED]