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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 June 2021 4:36 AM  
**To:** Health and Environment Committee  
**Subject:** Submission to support Voluntary Assisted Dying

To the Committee Members - good morning

**I would like to SUPPORT Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation.**

I live alone in Queensland, I have no children, I have one sister in Tasmania, one in WA (now unable to travel) and a brother in WA - usually travelling overseas and generally unable to assist me.

I have long been a supporter of VAD or Voluntary Euthanasia. I feel that when I am unable to lead a life that gives me at least some quality - I would be happy to consider ending my life - in a peaceful and civilised fashion.

I have had an Advance Health Directive for many years but understand that it has no provision regarding choice to end life.

At age 77, I so thoroughly enjoy my life and live very independently and happily on acreage where, in the main, I care for the land and its requirements. I interact with my community with programs of yoga, fitness gym, Tai Chi - along with meeting with friends. I take interest in arts, crafts, film festivals etc. I travel in Australia and overseas. I am currently an active volunteer first responder rural firefighter - and have been for 20 years.

I have 2 replaced hips, stents in my heart - and have suffered a bout of cancer. Thanks to excellent treatment by specialists in these areas, I continue to live at 'full speed' and with a happy disposition. I ensure my life is meaningful, I have goals and plans for the future.

These goals and plans do not include nursing home residency. I have seen more than my fair share of the sadness and neglect there - and yes, some cruelty. I cared for an old soldier in a nursing home for 7 years. And very recently I loved a 96yo woman who was admitted to a nursing home. In 3 1/2 weeks and 5 falls later - the last killed her with a bleed on the brain. My experiences are only confirmed by the recent Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety where I received daily updates. I will not go into a nursing home. This encourages me to think of what type of suicide I think I could undertake. This is a frightening prospect for me as I do not have this general inclination. Additionally, my thoughts for those who must find me, concern me greatly.

As with most people, I would prefer to continue living at home - with support. Therein lies another minefield - as I hear from friends - and again through reading the reporting from the Aged Care RC. If this support proved unhelpful, bullying, or not in tune with my requirements - I am trapped - especially if I have no-one to assist me personally with endless bureaucratic phone calls and reporting. I am very afraid of an ending like this - unhappy, helpless, with life completely out of my control.

My life is so valuable to me - I love my life. But when it no longer holds any real quality - I am happy to end it. **It is my life and it should be my choice.** All I have in my control is the possibility to stop eating and drinking. Sounds simple doesn't it? No it is not! At least I need to be kept in a deep, continuous sleep until the body dies. But who would do this for me? I need legislation - and a willing medical practitioner - along with someone to care for my body as I pass quietly away.

Additionally, I would want the choice for assisted dying in my own home - or in the place of my residency at the time - and not to be transported to a hospital. This may necessitate Doctors

communicating electronically/on line - as I live away from my regional capital and this may not be convenient for multiple medicos to travel to me.

This is my wish, my choice. And in the event that I am incapacitated and cannot make this choice, I hope - but am not confident - that my Advance Health Directive would play it's legal part.

I anxiously await the legislation for Voluntary Assisted Dying. I thank you for accepting my earnest submission.

Respectfully

Maxine Godley

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