
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 29 June 2021 9:39 AM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: Fw: Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill

I am writing in support of the draft Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill (VAD) as a nurse and an individual. As a nurse I have spent 45 years working as an advocate for patients in hospital and community settings, including palliative care. Everyone has the right to autonomy in deciding what healthcare is right for them, and this includes the right to die.

The current health care prolongs a person's life so staff, carers, family and politicians feel better, with no regard of the cost to the person dying in uncontrolled physical pain, loss of dignity or psychological turmoil.

If we truly believe that individuals have the right to decide their health care, then VAD must be legalised to prevent continued suffering.

If a person says this is against their religious beliefs, then that is their choice for themselves - they do not have the right to decide for another person. And if a person wants to live for as long as medicine can allow them to do so, that is also their right.

As an individual who knows the travel difficulties of living in rural and remote Australia, we must allow the use of technology to assist health staff involved in VAD. Doctors must be able to use electronic means to communicate with the patient and other doctors. COVID has demonstrated that telehealth and other electronic communication works.

In a world where anti-discrimination is valued, it is time in Queensland to stop discriminating against people who are dying, cannot recover, and simply want to control how and when the death occurs. I sincerely request that the VAD Bill be accepted.

Christine Remington
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