

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 934
Submitted by: Chrys Pulle
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We do not support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Eligibility criteria* ,Safeguards,Conscientious objection by either individuals or entities
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

As a Medical practitioner I have concerns that lack of specialist assessment in eligibility criteria is a critical oversight in the bill. This does not give the patient contemplating VAD all the options that they should consider. Also the prognosis of patients with neuro degenerative or oncological malignancy is hard to determine without specialist assessment

The lack of experience of the practitioner making assessment (5yrs) .

Older patients are at risk of coercion especially when capacity is questionable in conditions such as Alzheimer's disease. Geriatricians are referred patients to assess capacity for patients to make EPOA's or Wills. Surely as the ultimate decision to participate in VAD then a capacity assessment should be fundamental. Elder abuse is on the rise in Qld with latest figures showing up to 3 % of population over 65 at risk.

These issues need to be addressed to improve safeguards in this bill.