

Health and Environment Committee

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 30 June 2021 10:35 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: We oppose the "Voluntary Assisted Dying" Bill

Categories: Submission

Re: We oppose the "Voluntary Assisted Dying" Bill

Dear Health Committee Members,

Please consider this,

We would like to register our objection to the proposed VAD Bill in the Queensland Parliament regarding the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill.

Firstly, the words 'voluntary' and 'dying' in this context are simply cosmetic terms to make it seem acceptable. It is really saying 'assisted suicide.' It seems ironic that the government is willing to close State borders, enforce lockdowns, restrict commerce and movement of people in a free and democratic country to stop vulnerable people dying from a 'virus' but want to kill people whom you consider have reached their 'use by date.' Any society that wants to legalize VAD has lost its moral compass and will lead to a slippery slope to unethical decay in our society.

Secondly, if VAD is passed in Parliament the floodgates will open to 'dispose' other citizens who are deemed to be a burden on government coffers; the infirm, disabled, handicapped, mentally challenged, criminals (we do oppose the death penalty), dementia or anyone considered to be a burden on the public purse.

Thirdly doctors graduate and take the Hippocratic Oath which is one of the oldest binding documents in history, the Oath written by Hippocrates is still held sacred by physicians, to treat the ill to the best of one's ability, to preserve a patient's privacy and to teach the secrets of medicine to the next generation to preserve life keeping them from harm and injustice. Will doctors be forced to administer lethal drugs to kill humans? Will doctors who refuse to comply be prosecuted, or heaven forbid, be deregistered from their profession? The Australian Medical Association is opposed to this barbarous Bill. The British Medical Association was also opposed, and euthanasia is not legalised in the United Kingdom. The Bill in the Queensland Parliament should be defeated by politicians of all persuasions.

Fourthly, we understand that a small number of the community will be in favour of the Bill. Should we accept the urging of the minority that will impact on the majority? Will the government be brave enough hold a referendum to gauge the wishes of the state population?

Fifthly, anyone suffering from an illness, terminal or not, is entitled to have good modern palliative care to ease pain or suffering until their natural death. A society will always be judged by the manner we care for and provide for the most vulnerable in the community. Do we wish to exercise our democratic rights and uphold the duty of care?

Sixthly, there is an alternative that is ethically, morally, legally, and medically acceptable. An Advanced Health Directive is available and should be widely promoted allowing one to die naturally by foregoing medication or life support systems.

Seventhly, we are not convinced that the proposed conditions and safeguards to make the Bill acceptable will prevent its misuse. How often do we read in the media, reports of challenges to inheritances of deceased family members? Greed will often precede compassion and care for a fragile family relative.

There is always a possibility a person suffering a severe illness will recover and enjoy a quality of life.

Finally, we expected more goodness, truth and compassion from our Premier holding the high office of our State to promote right living over a culture of death and moral decay in a Christian country.

Sincerely,

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Sincerely,
Arthur Begea

