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29 June 2021

Health and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Sir/Madam

**Submission concerning the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021**

I have addressed my feedback to the sections of the Bill which are of most concern to me.

**Part 1, Division2, 5 Principles (d)** 'every person approaching the end of life should be provided with high quality care and treatment, including palliative care, to minimise the person's suffering and maximize the person's quality of life'

I applaud the extra funding for palliative care as stated in paragraph 5, page 1 of the explanatory notes, and would like to see even more funding.

**Part 1, Division4, 8** Voluntary assisted dying not suicide

- (a) Does not die by suicide
- (b) Is taken to have died from the disease, illness or medical condition mentioned in section 10(1)(a) from which the person suffered.

On page 2, paragraph 1 of the explanatory notes, 'under section311 of the Criminal Code, aiding or counselling another person to commit suicide is unlawful. Under section 300 of the Criminal Code, it is also a crime to unlawfully kill a person, whether or not the person consents'. This is the current legislation.

God has given us a moral standard to help us discern right from wrong. See the Ten Commandments at the end of this submission.

Just because other Australian states and other countries have assisted voluntary dying legislation, does not mean this legislation is actually good for our communities and society. This legislation may be seen as progressive thinking, but that does not mean what it contains is morally right. It is also not right to protect those people involved in implementing voluntary assisted dying, from liability for doing what is wrong, committing murder, (Part10, 147 to 150).

It is wrong for people to be given a substance to kill themselves or to request another person to administer the substance. It is murder. See the Ten Commandments at the end

of this submission. God created each of us for a purpose. He decides when we are to be born and when we are to die. It is not for us to decide when we are to die.

We will all stand before the judgement seat of God and each of us will give an account of ourselves to God (Romans14: 10b &12)

Has any consideration been given to the mental health of those workers who will be involved in implementing voluntary assisted dying? Are they likely to be at a higher risk of committing suicide themselves than the general public?

**Part 4, Division4, 81 Cause of death certificate**

3 The medical practioner –

- (a) Must state in the cause of death certificate for the person that the cause of death of the person was the disease, illness or medical condition mentioned in section 10(1)(a) from which the person suffered, and
- (b) Must not include any reference t voluntary assisted dying in the cause of death certificate for the person.

This is not truthful. It is wrong to encourage people to lie. Both the disease etc and the voluntary assisted dying must be included on the death certificate.

**Part6, division1, conscientious objection, 84 and 85**

The health practitioners and speech pathologists with conscientious objection to voluntary assisted dying should not be forced to refer people onto services which are involved with voluntary assisted dying. It is up to the person wanting voluntary assisted dying to find out through other sources.

**In conclusion**, I strongly recommend substantial increase in funding and implementing of effective palliative care services which can be easily accessed by all people in Queensland, including rural and remote areas. The funds spent would provide benefit to many more people than the funds spent on voluntary assisted dying. Voluntary assisted dying is murder in God's eyes. We are all accountable to God for our actions.

I do not support this Bill.

Yours sincerely

Kathleen Carman

## The Ten Commandments

Exodus Chapter 20, verses 1 to 17

And God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

<sup>3</sup>“You shall have no other gods before<sup>[a]</sup> me.

<sup>4</sup>“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup>but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>“You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup>but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

<sup>12</sup>“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>“**You shall not murder.**

<sup>14</sup>“You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>“You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

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