

Health and Environment Committee

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 July 2021 11:58 AM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: I oppose the "Voluntary Assisted Dying" Bill

Categories: Submission

Re: I oppose the "Voluntary Assisted Dying" Bill

Dear Health Committee Members,

I believe that all human life is valuable, and that the Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill will imperil the valuable lives of Queenslanders.

Specific concerns, beyond the provision of legalised, assisted suicide, include the way the bill forces individual doctors and organisations to violate their reasonable positions on the protection of human life. To force doctors and organisations who have dedicated themselves to preserving life into supporting the termination of life is a violation of the freedoms we cherish in Australia. The bill does this by forcing doctors to refer patients on to a provider of assisted suicide, and forcing organisations to assist in suicide by providing access to the practitioner who assists in suicide. If these actions were performed in another context, they would be described as being an accessory to the act, so one cannot argue here that they can be regarded as not involving culpability just because the Queensland government deems it so.

The bill outrageously proclaims that attempting to persuade someone that their life is, in fact, valuable is a crime. The bill thus seems determined to insist on a culture of death in Queensland. Death can, and must, be promoted, fighting for life cannot even be mentioned.

There are many other major problems with the bill which I will leave others to describe.

This bill will usher in a decline in freedoms, a culture of death in Queensland and in our health and aged care systems, and will thus result in an increasingly hostile and unsupportive environment for aged and ill people. Is this really how the Queensland government wants to respond to the Royal Commission into Aged Care?

Please reconsider this poorly drafted bill.

Sincerely,
Donald Lithgow