

**Health and Environment Committee**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 July 2021 3:02 PM  
**To:** Health and Environment Committee  
**Subject:** Submission on Voluntary Assisted Dying

**Categories:** Submission

**SUBMISSION ON VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING BILL 2021**

I am against the bringing into Parliament this voluntary assisted dying Bill. Although the words seem bland and passive, in reality the words euthanasia and suicide come to mind, even though the wording of the bill says the dying person isn't committing suicide.

Elderly people need to be kept from massive unrelenting pain in their dying days. They rather need Palliative Care which in the current system is grossly underfunded.

I had a friend who was 95 years old; she lived in her own home (which she owned) with her two single sons, one of whom is with her all the time. She worked cleaning houses until she was 80. She received assistance for showering and dressing each morning but took herself to the toilet and fed herself. She didn't want to go into a nursing home.

Some other of her six children thought they'd waited long enough for their inheritance even though they don't need the money. They tried to put her into a nursing home where she'd lose a lot of her individual freedoms and would probably soon die. Those children had premeditated murder in their hearts, and if assisted suicide had been legal, would have had her killed years ago by bringing false narratives as to her abilities. Do people love money more than they love their own mother? Sadly, it's true in many cases. You just have to ask yourself: Do my children love money more than me?

This dear lady passed away when she was nearly 96 after two weeks in hospital following a stroke. But how is it possible to protect vulnerable elderly people from coercion and the exploiting schemes of their relatives when they have no phone access or protection by outside medical people?

If this bill is passed through the Queensland parliament many more elderly people will become victims of relatives' abuse and lose their right to life and appropriate care as needed by the heavy promotion of assisted suicide. Even when they've worked hard for decades of their life, when they can no longer work, they are considered "useless eaters."



You may notice that overseas reports use the words euthanasia and suicide and it will happen here in Queensland that in time people will use those words instead of voluntary assisted dying.

Many people think euthanasia is a good idea until they celebrate their own 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. From then on enthusiasm for government legislation diminishes. In some European countries where euthanasia legislation has been in place for more than a decade, elderly people carry cards on their bodies saying: Please don't kill me, doctor."

Euthanasia legislation starts out with very strict safeguards that assisted suicide is only available to the terminally ill. But over the years the implementation of the legislation is watered down to allow anyone asking 2 doctors for help to die, to gain approval, even if they have no serious sickness at all.

In Flanders, just north of Belgium, in 2007 45% of those who were euthanised didn't even ask for help to die. In Belgium in January 2013 the Socialist Party introduced a bill to amend the euthanasia law to allow children "with discernment" to request euthanasia. If this isn't a slippery slope, then what is?

Those who fear that they may linger long when dying can make a "living will" when they update their possessions will. In countries where euthanasia has been in practice for quite a number of years, the rules about assisted suicide have changed. No longer do the elderly have any choice in the matter.

One lady in her 40's was depressed but healthy and asked for euthanasia. They killed her. Aren't doctors supposed to save life wherever possible? Are there no medications to deal with depression and pain?

Each parliamentarian has to understand that though they can pass any laws they like, the law may be legal but not moral. These killing old people laws won't have God's approval but God's condemnation. Why? Because human life is sacred to God and He alone decides when a person's last breath will be. Doctors should never be allowed to pump an elderly sick person with poison to hasten their death.

So you can see that no matter how strict initial laws are made, from the start they get watered down until the old people are at the mercy of their doctor and family. If family don't want to wait any longer for their inheritance they can tell lies and collude with the doctor to have the senior person put to death so they can legally steal the old person's assets.

Please do not promote any euthanasia laws as God will hold you accountable. God's curse is on all those who do evil, and not only you but also your family and society as well.

Thanks for hearing my view (and yes, I am over 70.)

Mrs M Cottrell

