

Health and Environment Committee

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 July 2021 3:19 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: Queensland Health - Voluntary Assisted Dying Committee

Categories: Submission

To the Committee
Queensland Health Voluntary Assisted Dying Committee
Submission

We wish to communicate to your committee our thoughts/wishes with regard to the Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) Legislation.

We support the VAD Bill in its present form, because we support any legislation that will provide us with greater control over our end of life choices.

However, we are concerned that some aspects may not be adequately addressed in the legislation. We are in our seventies and greatly fear an unpleasant death. We have witnessed first hand the protracted unpleasant/painful undignified dying of one set of parents in aged care. We have also witnessed first hand the literal hours-long screaming death of a brother/brother-in-law in his own home from a particularly nasty cancer (in respect of which we were warned that it would be a bad death) and for which pain medications failed in the final days, culminating in a horrifying scene at the end.

Therefore we believe it is our right to demand that VAD legislation be framed to ensure that there are no impediments to the provision of assisted dying support to those in need.

Distance would present a barrier to adequate assistance (which would apply to almost anyone in Queensland outside Brisbane and its satellite cities). We therefore believe it is imperative that doctors and patients be allowed to use electronic communications for advice, discussions and support (so common now, post Co-Vid, with hospitals and doctors providing tele-consults and video consults).

Dying at home or elsewhere outside of a hospital could also present difficulties. Because of our personal experience, we greatly fear our position should we find ourselves dying in our own home, or in a retirement village (or similar) or aged care. There should be provision to ensure that people in all residences (as well as hospitals or similar) have unfettered access to advice and assistance with their legal end of life dying choices. There is little use having legislation to enable choice if it fails to include adequate provision for equal access to a compassionate death for everyone who needs it and is legally entitled to it.

Thank you for reading our email and please be sure to include our thoughts in your considerations. Feel free to contact us if there is anything you would like to ask or if you need any further information,

Sincerely

Marshal Kloske and Carol Kloske
[REDACTED]