

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 1199

Submitted by: Christopher McMahon

Publication: Making the submission and your name public

Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill

Comments in relation to: The request and assessment process, Administration of the substance, Safeguards, Conscientious objection by either individuals or entities

Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I have been working as a doctor for 14 years and currently practice as a consultant anaesthetist in Queensland.

As an anaesthetist, I am experienced in acute and chronic pain management. Unfortunately, despite an extensive range of medications and other interventions available to treat pain and nausea, there are still patients whose symptoms remain poorly controlled.

I support the QLRC draft bill in its entirety. In particular, I endorse the following components:

- That health practitioners are allowed to initiate conversations about VAD, when informing patients about all their options for end-of-life care.
- That telehealth be allowed for consultations regarding assessment for and provision of VAD, so that regional Queenslanders are not disadvantaged.
- That conscientiously objecting practitioners be required to facilitate referral to VAD participating practitioners.
- That conscientiously objecting institutions be required to allow VAD participating services onto their premises if terminally ill patients under their care are too frail for transfer.