

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

**Submission No.:** 1225  
**Submitted by:** Name withheld  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Position:** I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill  
**Comments in relation to:** Other  
**Attachments:** No attachment

**Submitter Comments:**

I wish to make a general comment. I support this legislation because I believe in the dignity and autonomy of the individual as an underlying principle of a civilised and compassionate society. As I believe that individuals should have the capacity to make decisions concerning their own lives, I also believe that if the awful circumstance arises, they should also have this right to decide concerning their own death. We deserve to have this right extended to our citizens in Queensland, as it has been given to so many other people now in other states. Given proper and reasonable safeguards, to me this is a no-brainer. People who are dying and in pain and living a miserable existence prior to death should have the right to exit with dignity. They should have the right to decide.

I am aware of the arguments of various sections of the community who feel that they know better what is good for people and who wish to protect them from themselves. Their arguments should not sway Parliament from doing the right thing. People with religious beliefs who believe this is morally wrong wish to impose their beliefs on the rest of us. They should not be listened to or enabled. People in the palliative care industry who wish to tell people that their pain can be managed and is bearable - they have no right to decide for an individual how they should be treated and what is right for them. They should not be listened to or enable. The fundamental principle is that an individual should, in these particular circumstances, have the right to choose.

I hope that all members of the Queensland Parliament, of whatever party, have the courage to do what is right for the citizens of Queensland. I hope that they will resist the temptation to impose their own religious views, or moral biases, on the rest of us as they make this decision. The public is clearly in favour of this advancement in our civil society, and are looking to those in Parliament to have courage, step up, do the right thing, and support this bill.