

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 1235
Submitted by: Name withheld
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Position: I/We do not support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Eligibility criteria* ,Safeguards,Conscientious objection by either individuals or entities
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I have concerns as a practising physician that Qld plans to legalise voluntary assisted dying. There is insufficient knowledge or support for palliative care by the wider community. The lack of mandated specialist assessment prior to entering VAD ensures that patients and families do not have latest management for their terminal condition. Prognosis of conditions are difficult to determine specialist assessment. Older vulnerable patients already faced with prospect of requiring aged care , feeling burdensome to family members are at risk of coercion to enter vad process. Elder abuse is prevalent in Qld with approximately 3% of residents '> 65 at risk. Conscientious objection is not fully preserved by this bill either for institutions or for individuals. Individual practitioners will still have to refer patients to other physicians who will participate in VAD this being part of the chain. Institutions will still have to facilitate VAD even if it is against their religious or ethical philosophy. For these issues I oppose VAD