

Health and Environment Committee

From: Mary Ranke [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 July 2021 5:27 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Categories: Submission

Dear Health and Environment Committee,

I write to you to express my concerns about the voluntary assisted dying bill 2021 currently before the Health and Environment Committee.

The Queensland Labor Government's "Voluntary Assisted Dying" Bill is very wide, loose and dangerous legislation. There is no doubt that if enacted it would lead to wrongful deaths in QLD including people who would have wrongfully accessed assisted suicide because of wrong diagnosis, wrong prognosis, coercion, elder abuse, untreated mental anguish, or because they had little or no access to palliative care specialists and felt that they had no other choice. There are also grave concerns, that like Victoria, there would be an increase in non assisted suicide rate because of a suicide cognation effect that often accompanies euthanasia or assisted suicide being legalized.

Doctors with a conscientious objection to euthanasia or assisted suicide would be forced to refer patients for it and therefore be complicit in the outcome of a patient killed.

A doctor or nurse can raise the idea of assisted suicide in the context of discussing other end of life options. This is incredibly dangerous as a patient would no doubt be feeling unwell, distressed by their prognosis and very vulnerable.

No requirement for a patient to be seen by a palliative care specialist.

Doctors need to be able to act on their conscientious objection to euthanasia or assisted suicide. It is dangerous for nurses and doctors to bring up the topic of euthanasia or assisted suicide when patients are vulnerable.

Priority should be put into palliative care which is really assisting patients at the end of their life.

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