

**Health and Environment Committee**

---

**From:** Cara Whittred [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 July 2021 10:27 PM  
**To:** Health and Environment Committee  
**Subject:** I oppose the "Voluntary Assisted Dying" Bill

**Categories:** Submission

Re: I oppose the "Voluntary Assisted Dying" Bill

Dear Health Committee Members,

Dear Committee Members,

I am sending this email as a RN/Midwife (retired) with professional experience, as well as personal experience, associated with end-of-life care.

I have worked in 'rural and remote' hospitals in Queensland as well as major tertiary hospitals in this State, in New South Wales and in the UK, and there a number of concerns I have regarding the draft bill.

I have looked after many patients with terminal illnesses over a forty year period and I am most concerned at the lack of dedicated palliative care beds in this State. My father had superb 'end-of-life' care [REDACTED], as did a close family friend. Another close friend had the same excellent, loving and personalised care at a private facility on the Gold Coast. This type of specialised care should be available to all who require it particularly in 'rural and remote' locations where I know from experience there is very limited access generally.

Another concern I have is regarding our vulnerable brothers and sisters, particularly indigenous, disabled and the aged. Statistics from States (notably Victoria) and nations such as Belgium and The Netherlands in particular, bear out the reality that there is a 'slippery slope'. Increasing incidence of mental health issues have come into sharper focus through 'lockdowns' and as such those affected are also much more vulnerable - as we know anxiety and depression are key drivers in those seeking out VAD/euthanasia.

As a society we do not condone the taking of one's life, suicide, and yet what sort of message does State-sanctioned euthanasia send?

And finally, one of the most disturbing aspects of the draft legislation, in my view, is around the issue of conscientious objection.

Yours sincerely,  
Cara E Whittred

Sincerely,  
Cara Whittred  
[REDACTED]