

Health and Environment Committee

From: Bryan Menhinnitt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 July 2021 7:25 AM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING BILL

Categories: Submission

My name is Bryan Edward Menhinnitt, residential address is [REDACTED]

I wish to have my feelings and concerns noted by the Health and Environment Committee and the Parliament of Queensland in respect of the above legislation before the Parliament.

I am not in favour of the proposed legislation on the following grounds:-

- 1/ There is inadequate protection with the level of medical approval required for assessment. Two approving doctors can be junior General Practitioners with little or no specialised training in end-of-life management. There should at least be a requirement for the approval to come from specialists such as an oncologist or psychiatrist who are familiar with the disease or ailment causing the patient to consider the procedure.
- 2/ The patient should be made aware of any alternative treatment or procedure to assist with the management of his/her pain.
- 3/ In regard to 2/ above there should be the provision of adequate funding by the Government for Palliative Care. The recent statement by the Minister for Health that an additional \$171 million over 6 years (less than \$30 million per year) is not a reasonable figure considering that the present Palliative Care funding is well short of the current budgeted amount.
- 4/ The provision in the Bill making it illegal for non-supporters of the procedure of voluntary assisted dying proposing alternative measures also the position of organisations or individuals not having conscientious objection to the procedure recognised and respected does not give balance to the right of the patient to be adequately informed of alternative procedures.
Many local official organisations associated with health care are not supporters of the legislation in its present form and their opinions are being completely overlooked and discouraged.
- 5/ The legislation as proposed could well lead to an increase in "inheritance impatience" and elder abuse.

I respectfully request that my submission be given consideration and the Bill be withdrawn or at least be redrafted to take note of my concerns.

Further I encourage the Government to urgently review its commitment to adequately funding Palliative Care throughout this state.

Sincerely
Bryan Menhinnitt