



Supporting Nurse Practitioners through advocacy  
resources, networking and professional development

**Australian College of Nurse Practitioners response to:**

**Queensland Parliament**

**Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021**

Australian College of Nurse Practitioners

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2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

Health and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

By email: [HEC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:HEC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Health and Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response to the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021.

The Australian College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP) is the national peak organisation for Nurse Practitioners, advancing nursing practice and consumer access to health care. We actively seek opportunities to contribute to improvements to safety, quality and access to health care. We believe that consumers must have access to care that supports their own choices.

We support the Bill, including the principles, eligibility criteria, and the process outlined. We do have concerns that the current process will contribute to, or even prevent access to VAD, particularly in rural and remote areas of Queensland.

Enabling Nurse Practitioners as co-ordinating and consulting practitioner would ensure that many people in remote and rural areas, who may rarely see a medical practitioner, will be able to make a first request, and proceed with the process. Further to this suggestion, there could be a requirement that a Nurse Practitioner only act in one of the consulting or co-ordinating roles, and a medical practitioner in the other.

Many people nearing the terminal phase of illness are primarily cared for by nurses, and Nurse Practitioners provide comprehensive services in end-of-life care and palliative care. Enabling Nurse Practitioners to accept the first request would reduce the burden on patients and families in having to locate or travel to a medical practitioner to begin the process.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this important review. I would be happy to discuss our responses further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leanne Boase', is written over a thin horizontal line.

Leanne Boase  
President  
Australian College of Nurse Practitioners