

**Health and Environment Committee**

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 8 June 2021 6:22 AM  
**To:** Health and Environment Committee  
**Subject:** Funding cuts reveal Government's priorities

Re: Funding cuts reveal Government's priorities

Dear Health and Environment Committee,

I'm outraged that the Palaszczuk Government is promoting assisted suicide while simultaneously underfunding palliative care.

The Queensland Government has committed \$171 million from 2021-22 to 2025-26 to palliative care. This is drastically less than what is required to reach the WHO definition of palliative care, which is \$275 million per year. This contradicts 5(d) in the proposed Bill which states, "every person approaching the end of life should be provided with high quality care and treatment, including palliative care, to minimise the person's suffering and maximise the person's quality of life."

If there is insufficient palliative care, more people will end their lives. It's that simple. It appears that the Queensland Government wants to help vulnerable people commit suicide, but will not provide care to relieve their suffering.

The Voluntary Assisted Suicide 2021 Bill will lead to wrongful deaths because people have little or no access to palliative care and they may feel they have no other choice. It will allow people with a 12-month prognosis to end their lives immediately – but in many cases, they are unable to access palliative care until a few weeks or months before they die (if at all).

Please reject this terrible Bill. Stand up for palliative care and provide Queenslanders with the support they deserve.

Sincerely,

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