

Health and Environment Committee

From:
Sent: Monday, 7 June 2021 6:11 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: Health workers to suggest suicide?

Re: Health workers to suggest suicide?

Dear Health and Environment Committee,

I am shocked that the Voluntary Assisted Dying 2021 Bill would allow health workers to initiate euthanasia discussions with a patient.

Refer to Section 7(2) (1), a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner may [initiate a discussion about euthanasia] mentioned in subsection (1)(a) or (b) if, at the same time, the practitioner also informs the person about (a) the treatment options available to the person and the likely outcomes of that treatment; and (b) the palliative care and treatment options available to the person and the likely outcomes of that care and treatment.

Doctors and nurses are trusted, authority figures in a vulnerable person's life. For them to present the option of assisted suicide is utterly wrong – even if they also include other options – because the patient may be unduly persuaded to kill themselves.

The recent Aged Care Royal Commission revealed a crisis in aged care. In the many cases where there are no real palliative care options due to chronic underfunding in Queensland, this Bill adds pressure to vulnerable patients to prematurely end their lives.

I strongly oppose the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill and I'm asking you to reject it.

Sincerely,

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