

From: [REDACTED]
 To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
 Subject: Submission re Human Rights Bill 2018
 Date: Monday, 26 November 2018 11:54:21 AM

Committee Secretary
 Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
 Parliament House
 George Street
 Brisbane Qld 4000

I, Ms Margaret Anne Travers, (Maggie), of [REDACTED], vehemently oppose legalising the euthanasia of terminally-ill, or elderly, or people with disabilities

I draw your attention to the following information which has been brought to my attention and collated by Cherish Life Queensland I agree with what has been written, copied and pasted here, from Cherish Life Queensland

I am opposed to the MURDERING of people in our country who are most vulnerable, the unborn children, and the sick, elderly and disabled

M A TRAVERS

[REDACTED]

" the [Human Rights Bill 2018](#) which includes:

- The right to life – Section 16 states: Every person has the right to life and has the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of life (The Termination of Pregnancy Bill effectively legalises abortion to birth in our state - entirely removing the right to life for unborn human beings)
- A right to public assembly – Section 22 states: Every person has the right of peaceful assembly (The Termination of Pregnancy Bill imposes a 150 metre exclusion zone around abortion clinics)
- A right to freedom of conscience - Section 20 states: Every person has the right to freedom of conscience (The Termination of Pregnancy Bill compels doctors with a conscientious objection to abortion to refer for abortion anyhow - therefore removing their freedom of conscience) "

" WHY NOT EUTHANASIA?

Some well meaning people challenge why euthanasia, assisted suicide or voluntary assisted "dying" should not be legalised, sharing stories of enormous suffering, suggesting that orchestrating the killing of their loved ones is more humane. While stories of anyone suffering are heart-breaking, as a community which passionately cherishes human life we cannot agree with state-sanctioned killing of anyone, let of all those who are most vulnerable to isolation and depression such as the elderly, sick and/or disabled.

Palliative care specialists agree that almost all pain can be mitigated and in cases where there is an aggressive cancer, for example, in a region highly sensitive to pain, twilight sedation can be given so those patients can get rest.

It is very telling that the peak medical bodies around the world are opposed to euthanasia.

Queensland needs to invest more into palliative and aged care, and also invest in training more specialists in this area, particularly with an ageing population. The answer to growing aged care demands is to invest in their care and welfare, not their killing.

- The Australian Medical Association is [against euthanasia of any kind](#).
- All the peak medical advisory or representative bodies in Australia are opposed to euthanasia, so too is the [World Medical Association](#).
- 101 Victorian oncologists [wrote against euthanasia](#): "Assisted suicide is in conflict with the basic ethical principles and integrity of medical practice."
- t is a "slippery slope" and tragically Belgium is [now euthanising children](#).
- t is utterly counter-productive to combating [Australia's suicide problem](#).
- Euthanasia lobbyists often wrongly assert that the alternative in terminal cases is an agonising death, but the truth is that almost all pain can be mitigated with good palliative care.
- Doctors should kill the pain, not the patient.
- Euthanasia would be open to terrible manipulation and abuse. Cases of [people being "euthanised" against their will](#) are not uncommon.
- Euthanasia inherently devalues human life, particularly those who are elderly, sick or disabled.
- Like abortion, instead of protecting and assisting the most vulnerable in society, euthanasia would legalise their state-sanctioned killing.

Media Releases

End-of-life inquiry 'just a tactic to legalise euthanasia'

14 November 2018 The decision by the Queensland Labor Government to include euthanasia in an end-of-life inquiry has been condemned by Cherish Life Queensland as a tactic with the end goal being expanding "state-sanctioned killing" from the unborn to the elderly, sick and/ or disabled

Cherish Life president Dr Donna Purcell said an inquiry to improve aged care and increase funding for palliative care services was needed, but these crucial areas were being used as a smokescreen and would not be given the attention they deserved given euthanasia was part of the terms of reference

"Holding a parliamentary inquiry with a committee controlled by pro-euthanasia MPs is just following the tactic which enabled the Victorian Government to legalise assisted suicide last year, while ignoring the need to boost funding for palliative care

"Legalisation of euthanasia would expose the vulnerable elderly and terminally ill to pressure – real or imagined – to do the 'right thing' and request death so they are not a 'burden on their family'

"Sending the message that some lives are not worth living is also utterly counter-productive to combating Australia's suicide epidemic

"No safeguards are effective when it comes to euthanasia It is open to serious manipulation and can be the worst and ultimate form of abuse of those who are ill, elderly, or disabled

"This is one of the reasons why this state-sanctioned killing is opposed by both the AMA and the World Medical Association

"Euthanasia advocates give the false impression that terminally ill patients have to suffer excruciating pain and dreadful agony

"This is simply not the case, as the advanced palliative care available today means that every Australian can have the hope of a tolerable dying process

"Palliative care focuses on relieving pain and keeping patients comfortable in order to allow a natural and dignified death at their appointed time Good medical practice is all about facilitating natural death with dignity and peace

"Doctors should kill the pain, not the patient "

Cherish Life Queensland

[Redacted contact information]

