




Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**

**MEMBER FOR HILL**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2021

### **VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING BILL**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.24 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by the member for Traeger. I have listened to the speeches today and I have not heard one speaker give an explanation as to why the government refuses to fund palliative care to the levels recommended by the AMA and Palliative Care Queensland. Surely if the government is actually serious about providing a real choice, as the members supporting the bill have stated over and over again today, it would commit to the additional \$275 million per year required.

Those living in Brisbane may not be worried about accessing palliative care but as people travel further north and west, the worse palliative care gets. In fact, in most rural communities, palliative care simply does not exist. If this bill passes, those living in remote areas will have the option of assisted dying but will not have access to the option of assisted living.

We ask: how is this providing a choice to all Queenslanders? There should be no debate on VAD laws until we can provide a real choice to all Queenslanders. There is no possible argument that can be put forward today that a real choice will be offered to all Queenslanders. The bill clearly separates the haves from the have-nots or the rich from the poor. Those who can afford specialist palliative care will have a choice, but the vulnerable, the sick and the poor will not have the right to a choice. I encourage the House to support this amendment.