




Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**

**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2021

**VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING BILL**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.40 pm): In speaking to this amendment, I appreciate that there are strong views in making sure that palliative care is properly funded in this state. We all want to ensure that people have choice and there is palliative care offered no matter where you live in this state, but this amendment will see this debate cease and be delayed when the public are expecting it after three extensive referrals—two parliamentary committees and an inquiry by the Queensland Law Reform Commission. This amendment is saying to the people of Queensland, 'Sorry, we're going to put this on hold while we do further work on palliative care because more money needs to be put into the system.' We can always argue that more money could be put into the system, but to hold up this bill and this debate this week—

**An honourable member:** Shame!

**Mrs D'ATH:**—when the people of Queensland have been promised this debate is shameful. It is shameful to the over 110,000 people who signed that petition that the Deputy Premier tabled today. It is unfair to every member in this House who wants to speak, who wants to have a say, on this important issue and it is disrespectful to the people of Queensland who have lobbied hard and advocated for many years for these changes that we should once again wait.

This is, I have to say, a stunt. It is unfair to come in here and move this. It is seeking to delay a decision on voluntary assisted dying. That is what it is. If those who moved this amendment do not support VAD, then do not support VAD and put your reasons, but do not seek to delay this debate this week when the public deserve this debate. They have a right to this debate. It has been discussed for long enough. Enough people have told their personal stories, have dealt with the pain and distress of not having this choice. It is time we debate this bill. Everyone will get a say. Everyone will get to vote on this bill.

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** If anyone wants to vote against it for that reason then they can, member for Maroochydore, but let us have a vote. Let us give people a choice. That is what this chamber is for. I move—

That the question be now put.