

Dear Honourable Member of Parliament

(sent prior to a public inquiry being part of Bill examination process)

We are aware of the pressures placed upon politicians by significant electoral influences and "push" poll results. The decisions toward a forward debate on such a far-reaching piece of legislation, however, cannot be rushed nor contemplated without the scrutiny of a full and unbiased parliamentary inquiry. NSW VAD legislation cannot be justified on untested trends alone, nor on limited/uninformed polls that ask biased questions to achieve a particular result, nor on misinterpretation of raw NSW coronial data not scrutinised for validity of statements and "spin" as asserted by Go Gentle, Dying with Dignity and Mr Greenwich.

As the business period for government begins, we urge you to consider:

1. Results of polls which scrutinise exactly what Australians think about VAD legislation.

We include as attachments the more detailed Compass Polls of September 2021, and just prior to this from the Sexton Marketing Group, both indicating:

- Most Australians would prefer access and equity of appropriate healthcare ahead of consideration of VAD legislation, and
- Significant concerns about the lack of safety and consequences of aspects of legislation.

Once Australians are given contextual information to the content and implications of VAD bills and explained aspects of bills around the assisted suicide, the majority response changes to opposed.

2. Mis-Interpretation of Coronial Data.

Mr Greenwich's claims about the validity of the data interpretation is neither accurate nor complete. In regards to the document sent to you all yesterday by Go Gentle in the NCIS Report commissioned by Dying with Dignity, we would like to draw your attention to page 5 of the document titled "LIMITATIONS". It is clearly noted that:

- "data contained in this report does not infer a correlation between a terminal or debilitating physical condition and the deceased's intention to engage in self-harm",
- "nor does it indicate that the condition was the sole or primary contributing factor to the deceased's intention to engage in self-harm.

Caution is advised when interpreting this data - "coronial findings in relation to non-inquest cases may not contain details about the circumstances surrounding death"

We therefore again enclose the letter we sent to you last Wednesday which includes a true interpretation of data from A/Prof Maria Cigolini and Prof Brian Kelly, which indicates the context and review of previous such reports, that shows VAD would not have prevented these deaths and that many of these people would have a co-related or pre-existing mental health condition or be lacking in capacity.

3. We invite you to view brief podcasts of some of our network members and colleagues from Queensland and Victoria around their concerns about the introduction of VAD legislation. Please go to links provided.

Dr David Schlect – VAD will not deliver on its promise of autonomy for many

Vimeo Link <https://vimeo.com/592143444>

Dr Andrew Burke – The VAD Bill will inevitably lead to wrongful deaths

Vimeo Link <https://vimeo.com/592118509> [3]

Dr Luke Garske – We are naïve if we think we can assist suicide and protect the vulnerable:

Vimeo Link <https://vimeo.com/592127283> [4]

Dr Marion Harris – Damage caused by VAD to health care system in Victoria

Vimeo Link: <https://vimeo.com/592864598> [5]

Thank you for taking the time to consider our most urgent request for a NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the Greenwich VAD Bill.

Yours sincerely

Admin@healthprofessionalssayno.info