

## Palliative Care first, say No to Euthanasia

A message from the Parish Pastoral Council – 1 August 2021 – Week 3

In Queensland our politicians will be deciding on Euthanasia legislation currently before parliament during their sitting time in September. If you want to influence that decision and make your voice heard we have attached [a link to the Call to Action flyer](#) by which you can arrange to meet with or email your local parliamentarian. If that's not your thing, then **let's P-R-A-Y together** that Queenslanders might respect Church teaching *that life is sacred from conception to natural death and that a fully supported palliative care system would negate the need for assisted suicide.*

We need to think about what this legislation might mean if it is introduced – and how it will affect us now and into the future.

The following articles have been endorsed by the Archdiocese of Brisbane in helping us to better understand the implications and consequences of Voluntary assisted Dying / Euthanasia.

["Is Voluntary assisted dying in Queensland really going to remain safe and voluntary?"](#)

This is the question put by three stakeholders and medical professionals. They look closely at the *Queensland voluntary assisted dying bill 2021* and compare how the limits of introduced legislation in other states and countries have been pushed and challenged.

*Will doctor-assisted suicide, voluntary or involuntary, be considered as part of the "management of ageing". Once the ethical line is crossed, there is no logical end-point to terminating of life as part of future 'medical management' or indeed governmental social policy.*

*A dictum of medical ethics has always been "first do no harm". If one actually takes all the considerations into account, does this legislation do harm to individuals, professions or/and society? Would it not be better to develop the quality and accessibility of palliative care and psychiatric care available for all of the community such that we do not cross the line and stray into this highly contentious and problematic medical and governmental behaviour?*

Read the article in full here: [Editorial article – John Buchanan, Odette Spruijk, Hayden Walters](#)

[Key messages to consider for the Euthanasia Bill.](#)

Have you considered what this might mean for some of the most vulnerable members of our community ie the indigenous community who haven't been consulted, those who may suffer elder abuse, those with a disability who may feel pressured.

Read the article in full here: [Key messages for Euthanasia Bill](#)

*"When we can all accept that dying is the final part of living, when we can reassure the dying person they are still loved as they are, not just as they were, and that their life still has meaning, then dying can be peace filled and precious."*

Dr Caroline Ong, Sister of Mercy, a practising general practitioner in Victoria, bioethicist and Author of 'When life is ending'.

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[Archdiocese of Brisbane website 'Dying Peacefully' documents – see under Resources](#)