

19 November 2020

The Secretary
Queensland Law Reform Commission
PO Box 13312
George Street Post Shop QLD 4003



*the voice of
public healthcare®*

Via email: lawreform.commission@justice.qld.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

QLRC Consultation Paper WP 79 – A legal framework for voluntary assisted dying

The Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC) on the *Consultation Paper WP 79 – A legal framework for voluntary assisted dying*.

I would like to bring to your attention the attached articles that were published in our peer reviewed academic journal, the *Australian Health Review*. I hope that you find them helpful when developing an appropriate legal framework for voluntary assisted dying in Queensland.

Documenting the process of developing the Victorian voluntary assisted dying legislation is an article that describes how the legislation was developed, as well as the significant consultative and democratic processes that were required to enable the bill to be considered by the Parliament of Victoria.

Evidence-based law making on voluntary assisted dying is an article that outlines the importance of evidence-based decision making when considering the diverse and often conflicting arguments about voluntary assisted dying laws.

Future of assisted dying reform in Australia is an article that considers likely future trends in law reform for voluntary assisted dying across Australia.

Finally, *'This is uncharted water for all of us': challenges anticipated by hospital clinicians when voluntary assisted dying becomes legal in Victoria* is an article that describes the challenges that clinicians foresee in relation to integrating voluntary assisted dying within existing health systems. Understanding and addressing these anticipated challenges will potentially be helpful in the design of voluntary assisted dying legislation or associated clinician education.

Together these articles outline contemporary considerations for progress to be made with this important and sensitive public policy issue. AHHA hopes these articles will assist in your deliberations on end of life choices in Queensland.

I would be happy to meet with you via teleconference to further discuss end of life choices.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Verhoeven
Chief Executive
Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association

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