1. On 10 May 2021, the Queensland Law Reform Commission submitted its final report and Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.
2. The Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 provides for a voluntary assisted dying scheme that is compassionate, safe and practical.
3. Under the Bill, a person will be required to meet strict eligibility requirements to access voluntary assisted dying. A person will be eligible for access to voluntary assisted dying if they have been diagnosed with a disease, illness or medical condition that is advanced, progressive and will cause death; is expected to cause death within 12 months; and is causing suffering the person considers intolerable.
4. The person must have decision-making capacity in relation to voluntary assisted dying; be acting voluntarily and without coercion; be at least 18 years of age; and fulfil Australian and Queensland residency requirements.
5. The Bill provides a range of safeguards, including requirements for two medical practitioners to complete independent assessments of a person’s eligibility and for an individual to make three separate requests, one of which must be witnessed and in writing.
6. The scheme will be supported by oversight mechanisms, including a Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board to monitor the operation of the Act and review each completed request for voluntary assisted dying, record-keeping and reporting requirements and criminal offences for not complying with the scheme.
7. The Bill provides a framework for practitioners who conscientiously object to voluntary assisted dying and entities that choose not to provide access in their facilities not to participate in the scheme, and sets out a process requiring them to reasonably facilitate the person’s access to the scheme. This appropriately balances the competing rights of practitioners and entities not to participate in the scheme with respect for an individual’s right to exercise autonomy, including in relation to end of life choices.
8. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 in the Legislative Assembly.
9. *Attachments*:
* [Queensland Law Reform Commission Report](Attachments/Report.PDF)
* [Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
* [Statement of Compatibility](Attachments/SoC.PDF)