

MEDIA RELEASE



The Dignity in Dying Bill has been deliberately railroaded out of the Legislative Council.

Once again bigotry rules the day and suffering is effectively forced upon a minority of those with a hopeless illness for whom even the best of medical care does not provide relief.

The majority of members are shamefully neglecting their parliamentary duty, as lawmakers, to rationally determine the harm and the good of this bill.

Continual overwhelming evidence shows that doctors are breaking the law, assisting their suffering patients to die by acceding to requests for voluntary euthanasia and by giving large doses of medication with the explicit intention of ending the patients' lives.

There is an urgent need for honesty, transparency, accountability, equity and regulation in the present law and it should be of major concern that our doctors are being forced to act covertly and are risking prosecution by responding compassionately to their patients' intolerable suffering.

How much longer will our lawmakers hide their heads in the sand and deny the indisputable and desperate need for voluntary euthanasia legislation?

The present prohibitive law denying choice for voluntary euthanasia fails to protect and represent the best interests of all people.

The present law is both cruel and dangerously inadequate.

The Dignity in Dying Bill would have properly given full consideration to:

- A patients' right of self determination and bodily integrity
- the provision of informed consent
- the severity of hopeless suffering
- the requirement that a doctor act in the best interests of their patient.

Contact President Frances Coombe 8336 8994 or 0404 851 387

Vice President Julia Anaf 8362 4468