

**OUR DWDQ
SUBMISSION
IS IN!**

It is seventeen pages long, and packed with research and information. It will be loaded to the DWDQ Website on Monday. To read it, go to the DWDQ website <https://dwdq.org.au/> and look under the “News” tab

If you haven't sent your submission in, please do so. You may never in your life-time have this opportunity again. We need to convince the Inquiry Committee that it is not just the majority of Queenslanders who want VAD to be legalised, but an overwhelming majority. If you would like help or information about writing your submission, contact your Electorate Coordinator for your area listed on page 4 of this newsletter, or email or ring us.

You still have time to email your story to the Inquiry.

Submissions will be accepted until 11.59pm on Monday 15 April.

email it to: careinquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au

We do not want mass-produced photocopied submissions—no two of the submissions sent by people who support VAD are the same. Many are heart-breaking.

You can read submissions that have already been published on the Inquiry website by going to the following link: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/careinquiry

President's Report

Hello members and supporters.

Progress since the last newsletter in January has been momentous. Those of you who have been members of DWDQ (or the Voluntary Euthanasia Society as it was previously called), for 30 years and more, must have thought that you would never get to see the Qld Government considering a law to introduce VAD in Queensland. We are sorry to say that many of our original members who desperately wanted to use VAD have died badly.

The first submissions to the Inquiry were lodged in mid February this year. Since then over three thousand submissions have been received, overwhelmingly supportive of the QLD Government introducing a Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) law in Queensland. Hundreds of these submissions have already been published on the Inquiry website, and the others will be published as quickly as the Inquiry staff can process them.

DWDQ committee members have met with state MPs, including members of the Inquiry Committee. We have also met with the QLD Coroner, the QLD Police Commissioner, Palliative Care Qld, the Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union and other key stakeholders. We have two doctors on our committee who have contacted doctors groups and encouraged them to also lodge submissions.

DWDQ Electorate Coordinators have held submission writing workshops in Townsville, Hervey Bay, Bundaberg, a number of venues on the Sunshine Coast, venues around Brisbane and the Gold Coast, and other areas.

DWDQ members who are also members of various political parties have, and are, continuing to lobby their political parties to support VAD. Many of the regional coordinators have been interviewed by their local radio stations and many have had stories and articles published in their local newspapers.

We have a new facebook admin who is doing a wonderful job on our facebook page. We met Dylan Bell last year when he and some other QUT students did an assignment on VAD.

We also met Professors Ben White and Lindy Willmott from QUT who were instrumental in drafting the Victorian and Western Australian VAD laws.

Clem Jones Group have been enormously helpful and we continue to have a very good working relationship with them.

Marj Lawrence will retire from being coordinator for the Townsville region on Monday. We will miss Marj badly—she has been priceless to our cause. We are very grateful to Joan Musumeci who will now be the coordinator for the Townsville Region. We are also very grateful to Julia McCuaig who has been helping Paul Bennett on the Gold Coast and Lynn Hodgkinson who will help Denise Sauer on the Sunshine Coast.

Every one of the DWDQ committee and a number of other wonderful people were involved in researching and/or compiling the DWDQ submission. We are also especially grateful to Bruce Lindsay who pulled our initial research into the first draft and a number of subsequent drafts. My friend Gillian Duncan spent many hours assisting with early formatting and referencing for the submission. It has been a really grass-roots effort.

Cheers—Jos



Our Position Statement will change!

As a result of feedback from our members and supporters, the DWDQ Committee has agreed to make some major changes to our Position Statement. These changes are reflected in our submission to the Inquiry.

These changes relate to eligibility of people with “impaired cognitive ability” (we are no longer referring to dementia), people younger than eighteen, and the time that people need to be a resident of Queensland to be eligible.

As soon as the changed wording has been finalised, the updated version will be posted on the DWDQ website.

The next steps—an overview

Over the next few months, the Inquiry Committee will travel to many regional areas and ask people to talk to them directly. Everyone is welcome to attend and listen. We are very lucky in Queensland, as this didn’t happen in Victoria or in Western Australia. All the “interviews” took place in the capital cities.

The Inquiry Committee interviewed the first of the key stakeholders on Friday 5 April at the Parliamentary Annexe in Brisbane. They heard from the Chair, Dr Greg Parker, and other members of the Palliative Care Directors Group and Queensland Health on Advance Care Plans and Directives.

The next public hearings will be at:

- Caloundra on Friday 3 May at the CCSA Hall at Nutley St Caloundra. To reserve your seat use the following link, <https://qldparlcomm.snapforms.com.au/form/caloundra> or ring the hall on 5491 4937.
- Toowoomba on Friday 17 May (venue and time TBA)

We will let you know dates and venues of these public hearings in your area once they are announced.

For information on further public hearings, go to the Parliamentary Website using the link: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/HCDSDFVPC/inquiries/current-inquiries/AgedCareEOLPC>

After the interviews have been conducted, the Inquiry committee reports will be written. The deadline for these reports is 30 November this year. The VAD report will recommend whether or not a VAD Bill be drafted. If it is recommended that a Bill is to be drafted, it will go to QLD parliament where it will be discussed, debated, possibly amended and then voted on by all 93 QLD MPs.

We will all be very busy during this time, as all 93 MPs need to be seen to make sure that they know and understand the facts so they can make an informed decision.

A personal apology to everyone whose emails I have not responded to.

Lobbying MPs and various crucial stakeholders, attending and speaking at Public Information Sessions, negotiating the major changes in our Position Statement and consequently in our submission to the Inquiry has taken priority over everything.

I can only say that I am sorry, and that I will try to attend to them and to answer them all individually over the next few days.

Next DWDQ Public Information Sessions for 2019

Townsville Public Information Sessions

Date and time TBA

Carvilla Units,

Corner of Diprose and Albury Streets, Pimlico

There is no cost to attend

For more information, please

email Joan at joan.musumeci@gmail.com

No photo
available
yet

Hervey Bay Public Information Sessions

Friday 10 May, 2-3pm

at the Hervey Bay library

Ring the library to reserve a place on 4197 4220

Or book using the following link

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/dying-with-dignity-hervey-bay-library-tickets-59928331252?aff=eac2>



Bundaberg Public Information Sessions

Date and time to be announced

at Take the Plunge Coffee Shop

7 Quinn St Bundaberg

No cost to attend, but pls support the cafe

Email widebaycoordinator@gmail.com for more info



Sunshine Coast Public Information Sessions

Wednesday 15 March, 1.30pm for a 2pm start

CWA Hall, 104 Memorial Ave, Maroochydore

There is no cost to attend and afternoon tea is provided.

For more information, please email Denise at

dbsauer@icloud.com or ring her on **5477 5569**



Brisbane Central Public Information Sessions

Wednesday 22 May – 11am to 1pm

Brisbane Square Library Meeting Room,

266 George Street, Brisbane.

There is no cost to attend these information sessions.

Refreshment are provided.

For further details, please email Jeanette at

jeanette.graceville@gmail.com or ring her on **1300 733 818**



Gold Coast Public Information Sessions

Date and time to be announced

For more information, email Paul on pbpub01@gmail.com

or ring him on **0414 937 937**

