



The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

In reply please quote: 2314903
Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
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Dear Mr Laurie

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jarrod Bleijie", written over the text "Dear Mr Laurie".

Thank you for your letter dated 23 August 2013 enclosing copies of Petition No. 2159-13 and Petition No. 2106-13 presented to the Queensland Legislative Assembly petitioning for assisted suicide or euthanasia.

The issue of assisted suicide or euthanasia is one that polarises many parts of the community, with strong and sincerely held views by those who support it and those who oppose it. At the essence of this debate, is how best to balance the competing values of the desire of individuals to choose to die with dignity when suffering and the need to uphold the inherent right to life of every person.

In Queensland, euthanasia, otherwise known as assisted suicide, is a criminal offence. Section 311 of the Criminal Code provides the offence and sets out the circumstances in which a person may be guilty of aiding suicide. Section 282A of the Criminal Code allows the provision of palliative care to a person even if the incidental effect of providing palliative care is to hasten the other person's death. However, section 282A makes clear that the provision does not provide any justification for euthanasia.

The Queensland Government has no plans to make changes to the laws in this regard.

I trust this information is of assistance and thank you for bringing the concerns of the petitioners to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jarrod Bleijie", written over the text "Yours sincerely".

JARROD BLEIJIE MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice