



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **REPORT TABLED – INQUIRY INTO THE VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING BILL 2021**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**22 February 2022**

An Upper House inquiry into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 has today released its final report. The bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Law and Justice on 19 October 2021, with the bill passing the Legislative Assembly on 26 November 2021.

The Chair of the Law and Justice committee, the Hon Wes Fang MLC, commented: 'This inquiry, as expected, generated significant public interest and stakeholder engagement. The committee was able to hear from over 75 witnesses across three days of public hearings. This was in addition to receiving around 39,000 responses to an online questionnaire, as well as 3,070 submissions and three supplementary submissions'.

'The committee heard from stakeholders who supported the bill, and those that opposed the bill. This included various advocacy groups, academics, medical professionals, religious leaders and private individuals with lived experience of the issues relating to the bill'.

The Chair continued: 'The purpose of this inquiry was to give stakeholders the opportunity to put their views on the record, and to consolidate this evidence to inform the Upper House's consideration of the bill. This is an issue with strong and passionate opinions, which are felt deeply on both sides of the debate, and so unsurprisingly there was no consensus amongst stakeholders, or indeed committee members, as to the merits of the bill'.

'The committee's report does not take a position on the bill, but rather, sets out the background of the bill, and more importantly, the key arguments in support and in opposition to the bill for the Legislative Council to consider during its debate. As such, the committee has simply recommended that the Legislative Council proceed to consider the bill', the Chair concluded.

The report is available on the committee's [website](#).

-ENDS-

*For further information, please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Wes Fang MLC, on (02) 9230 2888.*