

House of Representatives

Supplementary Order Paper

Tuesday, 30 July 2019

End of Life Choice Bill

Proposed amendment

Simeon Brown, in Committee, to move the following amendment:

Clause 4

In *clause 4*, replace “6 months” (page 4, line 24) with “1 month”.

Explanatory note

This Supplementary Order Paper amends the Bill to ensure that those who are eligible for assisted dying are those who have an imminently short amount of time left to live, rather than those who have up to 6 months. This provides greater certainty that those who are eligible will be those with only a very short period of time left to live. Evidence from palliative care experts has made it clear that predicting whether a life limiting condition in the terminal stage will render someone with 6 months or less to live can be very difficult to prove, with many instances of the wrong diagnosis being given. This Supplementary Order Paper limits this risk substantially. The symptoms that present for those who may likely die within 6 months are far more difficult to accurately assess than the symptoms that present for those who may likely die within 1 month.