

House of Representatives

Supplementary Order Paper

Wednesday, 21 August 2019

End of Life Choice Bill

Proposed amendment

Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, in Committee, to move the following amendment:

Clause 17

In *clause 17(1)* (page 12, line 4), replace “Within 14 working days of a person’s death” with “As soon as practicable, but in any case no later than 5 working days after a person’s death”.

Explanatory note

This Supplementary Order Paper amends the End of Life Choice Bill by providing that the death reporting requirements are met as soon as practicable. The reporting of life-and-death decisions should not be treated as merely routine administration for which there is no particular urgency.

Precise information is most likely to be provided shortly after an event takes place, rather than some weeks afterwards. To the extent that the proposed law contains accountability mechanisms, these should be taken seriously.

The extent of the time allowed should not be 14 working days as that could equate to nearly a calendar month at certain times of the year (and is nearly three weeks in any case). One working week is the time proposed in this Supplementary Order Paper, which should provide easily sufficient opportunity for compliance with the reporting requirements.