

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING BILL 2019 — AMENDMENTS

Statement

HON MARTIN PRITCHARD (North Metropolitan) [5.20 pm]: I am not using this as an opportunity to do a second reading contribution on the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill that is before the house at the moment, but in the hope of transparency about my position on it, I will make a brief member's statement.

My fervent wish is that the house scrutinises the bill and comes to a determination as to whether it supports it in its current form or with amendment, or whether it finds it unacceptable. As part of the process, I have foreshadowed that I will move a number of amendments that go to my concern that the assessment by the medical practitioner provides the best possible prognosis so that I can be confident that the bill is about death and death rather than life and death. I am now of the view that the amendments I have foreshadowed at clauses 16 and 32 on supplementary notice paper 139, issue 1, may not achieve the aim that I wish to achieve and could possibly frustrate the operation of the bill, should the amendments be accepted and the bill passed. For that reason, I indicate that I may not move those amendments. That is not to say that my concerns have been allayed—they have not. I will continue to seek a resolution to my concerns—which is why I foreshadowed the amendments in the first place—during the Committee of the Whole stage.