

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 12
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Eligibility criteria*
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I am in middle life and healthy, but if one day I am in a position of suffering due to my health I wish to be able to choose to end my life with dignity and not to be forced into medically prolonging a life that has no quality for me.

For this reason, I would be disappointed if the eligibility criteria were too tightly constrained, as (for example) it was in Victoria.

Something of particular concern for me is the idea of being required to be medically judged as within a certain number of months of death before becoming eligible. My step-father died last year in desperate pain and discomfort from cancer. He was never given proper end of life care or palliative support, because it was necessary to be judged as being within 3 months of dying before becoming eligible for this support. NO DOCTOR WANTED TO COMMIT TO THIS JUDGEMENT. Therefore he was never eligible, despite being clearly close to death and in great need.

The same thing, I am confident, would occur with requests for assisted dying if they are made contingent upon being eligible only if you're judged within a particular window of dying from your illness.

Eligibility criteria should be based upon suffering, with an emphasis placed on the subjective assessment of the sufferer.