

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 25
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Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Eligibility criteria*
Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:

My story in support of Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) is short, and far less traumatic than many others. However, I believe it still deserves hearing.

My father died in hospital from heart disease at the age of 82. He had suffered from heart disease (and associated symptoms) for approximately 20 years. Over that period, he came to accept his fate, never more so than in the last 5 years of his life, having suffered numerous heart attacks along the way. His last 3 months of life were spent in a hospital bed in Ward 4D of the (old) Royal Brisbane Hospital, at the time a very drab and depressing place, despite the best efforts of nursing staff.

He knew he would not get better, and would die in hospital. During those final 3 months, his quality of life was very poor. He had fluid buildup on his lungs, and required oxygen regularly. He could no longer indulge in any pastime which he found enjoyable. Mentally he was ready to die, but he had to wait and wait and wait till his body gave out, knowing that, when that moment came, it would involve severe cardiac pain.

To have had the option of VAD would have given him relief from the depressive process of simply waiting to die, and would have also ensured his final moments of consciousness were not spent in great pain.

I watched him die in such a manner. I do not want the same for myself and others. I want the option, the choice, to end my life with dignity at the time of my choosing, if there is no hope, if I have simply had enough of suffering.

Colin Hylton