

**Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021**

**Submission No.:** 30  
**Submitted by:** Alex Webling  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Position:** I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill  
**Comments in relation to:** Eligibility criteria\* ,The request and assessment process  
**Attachments:** No attachment

**Submitter Comments:**

I have been a supporter of euthanasia since I watched my grandmother slowly die from the effects of leukaemia in the early 1990s. Her mind fell away over the six months that I looked after her. At the start of the process she was a sprightly 70-year-old, who spoke four languages, and could write at university level in three of them. At the end, she had the mind of a child and could only cry like a 4-year-old in her last remaining language about her distress and pain. She got good palliative care because we had the resources to fund that, but that was not enough and did not take away the existential distress. Nothing could.

We cannot allow people to be forced to undergo an undignified death if they do not wish to, and we as a society can help them go gently. We must allow euthanasia for those who wish to undertake it. Bodily autonomy should be the principle that is followed. Other peoples' moral objections have no part to play.

Having looked at the processes in countries such as Belgium, Netherlands and Switzerland, I feel that QLD's proposed laws are too restrictive. Even in those countries, the numbers of people that take advantage of euthanasia are low. The criteria are arbitrary. The only test should be that the person no longer wishes to live and has made the choice through free will.

The most egregious of these criteria, there should be no 12 month limit on 'being expected to die'. It is arbitrary. Many diseases disable a person in such a way that they may not die for years or possibly decades, but the victims want to be freed of their suffering. Bodily autonomy should be the principle that is followed, the person who wishes to undergo euthanasia should decide if they no longer wish to live.