

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 34
Submitted by: Kathleen Evans
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill but recommend some changes to it.
Comments in relation to: Eligibility criteria*
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I agree with the principle of Voluntary Assisted Dying, but believe that the caveat about suffering from a condition that would cause death within one year is unreasonable and unnecessarily prescriptive. Progressive disabling conditions such as Dementia and Alzheimer's will not necessarily, in fact rarely, result in death within the year. A person can continue to deteriorate and be a burden to the community and themselves for many, many years following the diagnosis and onset of the disease, long after they have forgotten who they or their loved ones are. The person who knows their diagnosis and wishes to avoid this prolonged deterioration SHOULD be able to decide to end their own life at any point. In fact ultimately, I believe that a person should have complete control over when and how they end their lives. It is not a legislative matter.