

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 68
Submitted by: Cheryl Sykes
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Other
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I would like to be able to share a video that I took of my 49-year-old nephew, Jason, before he eventually died of an aggressive cancer that he had been fighting hard against for nearly two years.

At the time the video was taken, Jason had been in palliative care for a number of weeks already, and he had to endure another 14 days after I took this video.

During my visit, he made a comment to me about wanting an option to 'take something' so that this could all come to an end, and I asked him if he'd like me to video his comments so that if I ever had the chance, I could make his voice heard.

I don't know how I can share this video with you – I suspect if I put a link to where I have it uploaded, your system will worry that it is not safe so please advise where I can upload it.

In the meantime, this is a transcript our conversation in the video:

Cheryl: So, tell me... you're kind of at the stage where if there was something that could be done for you now, you've only got days to go, you'd have something... is that what you told me?

Jason: I'd take it, yeah without hesitating, yeah I'd take it

Cheryl: why?

Jason: because why suffer? why suffer any more than what I am?

Cheryl: yep

Jason: and you know, like, I'm ready to go and there's nothing they can do for me... so I'd do it... for sure

In the video, Jason looks straight at the camera and his tone of voice clearly conveys his wish for a choice.

I told Jason I would do something about this so others didn't have to suffer. I hope this legislation will pass so that people like Jason will be given the option that wasn't available to him.