

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

**Submission No.:** 86  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Position:** I/We do not support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill  
**Comments in relation to:** Other  
**Attachments:** No attachment

**Submitter Comments:**

As a palliative nurse of many years, and having worked in aged care, hospice and the community, I have seen patients given very poor medical care by doctors who are mainly gp's and not palliative care physicians and who make no attempt to refer or ask for assistance. I have seen patients die in distress from receiving poor palliative care, and also inappropriate administration of drugs by RN's who also do not understand palliative care management ie prn means prn, not withheld due to a time frame, and a lack of understanding or withholding of adjuvant therapy.

I have seen a patient die within 10-15 mins of being given a bolus shot of morphine in a syringe driver that the gp did not understand or choose to know about, distressing her family.

We need to have much more funding and education during training and beyond. This is a specialised field, You wouldn't send someone with no expertise to order or administer chemotherapy, or undertake transplant surgery if you were an eye surgeon and so on.

I feel there are many who do not understand what they are agreeing too, if someone dies in pain/distress that is poor management.

We all deserve to die with dignity and comfort with expert palliation, not execution.