

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 137
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Eligibility criteria*
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I have been employed as a professional social worker for over three decades in health-related areas, including hospitals. During this time I have witnessed significant improvements in terms of health care, increasing life expectancy, quality of life and consumer engagement. It has been my privilege to work in this environment and observe these positive improvements and the flow-on benefits to patients. More recently I have become aware of some patient's wanting to talk about end of life planning more openly than ever before and have also observed patients with a terminal illness requesting and at times imploring doctors to end their suffering. In this situation patients and doctors have no option other than offering palliative care, however many of these patients have been receiving palliative care and have progressed beyond this as their only option. These patients are intelligent individuals with decision-making capacity and it seems unreasonable not to provide voluntary assisted dying as another this level of health care in these circumstances.