

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 148
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Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Eligibility criteria*
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Having worked as an aged care Coordinator for 27 years, I have watched so many elderly and some younger people die undignified and/or painful deaths. People from all walks of life, many of who played important roles in their communities and were looked up to and respected. I have watched them enter nursing homes and become shells of the people they once were, depending on their condition but nonetheless, sitting around waiting to die.

I have also been through the journey with my late wife and nursed her for 16 years before she died aged 43. For the last five years of her life, she constantly asked to be allowed to die. Had we known that [REDACTED] would be banned, we may have taken that end-of-life step, which we afford to our much-loved pets, so that they don't suffer. Society seems to have the priorities wrong.

I want to be able to choose the timing of my end of life when my quality of life is where I deem it to be not fulfilling how I want to live, in danger of an undignified end-of-life journey. I want the choice to decide what happens at the end of my life, not someone else's religious views, which are not connected to me in any way.

As much as we try to dress up the nursing home option, it is not the conditions under which we would choose to live out our lives. Odor Eliminators can only do so much.

Of course, there need to be safeguards in place but the bill should not be a toothless tiger that only allows terminal patients with six months to live, the right to set out the case to die before a panel of four, made up of two doctors and a nurse and the person who wishes to take this final step, all who can make a decision without personal religious beliefs guiding their decision.

Thank you