

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 155
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Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
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Submitter Comments:

I watched my grandfather whom I cared for for four years he went through dementia prior to being diagnosed he was an independent man who came to Australia back in 1966 and worked his butt off to make a life for his family. In the end he lost his dignity his pride and sense of self worth. He asked me one time when I took him to the memory clinic "Annie if ever someone else has to wipe my behind then pull the plug as I don't want to go through all that shame before I die". In the end he spent countless times staying in hospital as he was going mentally crazy. Dementia was killing him slowly and he was still aware of that. Well during the night one night he got up to go to the bathroom without telling anyone as he was still adamant he could do things on his own, well he slipped on his own urine and broke his hip. We waited 45 minutes for an ambulance that night. He ended up having surgery to repair the break but whilst in hospital he ended up with pneumonia and this infection brought on his dementia even more and as we watched on for two weeks as the hospital treated his infections he wasn't getting better at all we were slowly losing him and he could see it in our faces when he looked at us. He knew he was dying slowly and he was in pain and just wanted it over and done with. I couldn't take it no more and at the meeting with all the doctors surgeons and hospital director I broke down and said stop treating him just make him comfortable and let him go. They at first were reluctant because they had a duty of care. Well I pushed and pushed as hard as I could and my family had my back. As much as what we didn't want him to go it was time. He was suffering and in pain and had gone crazy and this was 100% cruel. I'm pleading with the government to recognise that dementia is a terminal illness it can't be cured. Please allow people with dementia to have the right to choose if they want to go or stay. They should be allowed to make this decision when firstly diagnosed before they go crazy or family whom are watching a loved one suffer should be able to choose for them when the time comes. I'm still grieving my grandfather who raised me like he was my father as my father was never around but the man I call my father was Mr Imre Ivan he was the loyalist family man I've ever known and loved, he deserved to make that choice as he was a proud strong man but instead we lost him slowly and painfully and this memory will never be forgotten I wish he could have had a choice but he didn't. I urge and plead please make VAD Legal.