

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 203
Submitted by: Daniel Clemesha
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Eligibility criteria*
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I support this bill in the belief that any Australian citizen has earned the social and moral right to exercise personal choice to end life with dignity when facing death, by using the power to do so offered by this legislation if he/she wishes.

Naturally, I equally support the right of all other citizens to choose to exercise this option for themselves, or not.

I reject completely the right of any other person or group to withhold my rights in this matter based on their own personal beliefs.

Palliative care is also a right in this situation but it cannot offer the guarantee to the dying person - that certainty of a dignified and pain free end of life that this legislation will. The dying person will be able to use the time available positively rather than living in fear of an uncertain, possibly painful and often overly prolonged end passage to death.

I know from public polls taken, that a majority of my fellow citizens support this proposed legislation and that a minority reject it; for too long this minority has unfairly and noisily been allowed to control the public discourse including our parliaments, quite undemocratically.

Both sides and all citizens will be properly served by a parliamentary vote in the affirmative. Additionally I would suggest that....

There is no reason not to also allow a person, knowing that an incurable and unpleasant death from a diagnosed condition eg a dementia is in store, to be able to have a living will clause to the effect that when of sound mind, a wish to die when that state is no more, will similarly be honored.