

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

**Submission No.:** 218  
**Submitted by:** Rodney LEWIS  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Position:** I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill  
**Comments in relation to:** Other  
**Attachments:** No attachment

**Submitter Comments:**

I believe in, and respect the principle of autonomy of individuals. I do NOT respect a system or a group of other individuals who want to tell me how to live my life, or to DIE, for that matter. I am a spiritual person, though I am NOT a religious person. I hope that when I die, if I were to have a choice, it will be peaceful, pain free and a respectful and dignified death. In the event that I am faced with a situation where these wishes are severely compromised, I would like my personal wishes to be respected and be allowed to access Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD). I am not asking other people to chose the kind of dignified death I want for myself, and in return I would ask opponents to VAD to respect my decision for me, and for me alone, and for them NOT to impose their set of values upon me, and force me to accept their wishes rather than those of my own. It really is a simple request, but opponents to VAD assume their "moral compass" is more worthy than that of my own, and they choose what they see as the "moral high ground" and act as if they have a right to override my autonomy and my wishes. THAT IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE!

Out of respect for my fellow Australians, and more specifically my Queensland counterparts, all I want is for every one of us to be FREE to choose to access VAD ... or not, according to our own values and beliefs, and not those of others who would dishonour the person I am and the values I hold.