

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 238
Submitted by: Charles Bazley
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We do not support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: The request and assessment process,Safeguards
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

██████████ chose to take his own life. He did not let his family know of his intentions and was successful at his first attempt. He left his mother and his two sisters devastated. And the wider family also. It was so sad! We never want to go through that again! I sometimes think, if only he had not been successful? The family could have and would have rallied around to support him with what he was going through.

My brother also was facing death from an aggressive form of cancer. As soon as he was declared palliative, he was given very high doses of morphine. He was not asked. He hated it so much that he checked himself out of hospital and weaned himself totally off the morphine. When he did end up having to go back to hospital, he negotiated a much lower rate of morphine and was totally 'with it' right until about an hour before he died. He didn't want to die but was able to participate in life for as long as possible.

When my wife was also declared palliative, again from an aggressive form of cancer, I was asked to come to a meeting with a doctor and two nurses. They proposed to me that they put my wife on very high dosages of morphine to hasten death and to make her sleep more. I felt that they were ganging up on me, but armed with the information from my brother's experience, and also consulting with my wife who was totally left out of the discussions by the medical staff; I resisted their propositions.

Because of my experiences, I am against the proposed Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill. There are too many possibilities that it will be totally misused to provide more bed space in hospitals, and enable even the possibility of state sanctioned murder of troublesome old relatives that would not die quickly enough.

Palliative care needs to be boosted and effective pain relief should be researched and given freely, and suicide should be resisted, never encouraged. This bill is a backward step!