

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

**Submission No.:** 339  
**Submitted by:** Lilyanna Medhurst  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Position:** I/We do not support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill  
**Comments in relation to:** Safeguards, Oversight and review  
**Attachments:** No attachment

**Submitter Comments:**

I have felt strongly against euthanasia for some time.

It began over 10 years ago after reading an article in an Australian paper about Euthanasia in the Netherlands.

The article spoke about how the legislation has shifted from its initial purpose of assisting only the very extreme cases to allowing it to be used even in cases where teenagers were suffering from depression.

I don't know of many teenagers who don't suffer depression. The teenage years are times where their limbic system rules them and the choices they make are often poor and lead to a negative self image.

It is only when they reach their mid 20s that their decision making processes become more stable . It is at this time that the wisdom part of their brain called the pre frontal cortex is fully developed The decisions become more informed and more positive and the episodic depression no longer torments them.

Already in the Netherlands young children are being targeted for Euthanasia.

So I believe its morally ,ethically and socially wrong.

The Government is elected to act responsibly and serve the best interests of the State in which they govern. The Netherlands is a prototype and already we see where legalization of Euthanasia will lead."