

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

**Submission No.:** 346  
**Submitted by:** Tamra Betts  
**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:**

Our daughter passed away in 2017, aged 25 yrs, from melanoma. She was quite proactive through the media following Brittany Maynard ending her suffering in 2014 in Oregon. The final 8 weeks of our daughter's life was particularly heart breaking and in particular the final month as she slowly deteriorated in hospital. I remember when she was admitted to hospital four weeks before she passed asking the Palliative Care Dr to do something to end this. The reply was I can't do anything but I can ensure you are comfortable. To see our daughter vomiting faecal matter and requiring a tube to drain and prevent this. Having to bathe my daughter, assist her with her toileting, which I know she found very degrading. Having to say no to sips of fluid because she was unable to swallow breaks a mothers heart. Something that still and I am sure will never leave our minds is the need to change bed linen as she lost control of her bowels. The moaning as she was rolled in this process will never leave us.

Our daughter was a true inspiration during her melanoma journey. She was fortunate to have 3 years of relatively good health (for someone with a terminal cancer diagnosis) for three years. She spent this time educating people of sun safe practices and raising funds for research. She had an online business and a very successful blog. She spoke openly about death, death did not scare her but how she would pass did. She did not want to loose her dignity, I can only hope that she was unaware of what was going on. We promised we would be with her until the end and we were. Evenings were no exception. If I could have ended this earlier for her I would have. We miss her so much but there is a part of us that are relieved that she is free from suffering.

I speak for our late daughter, my late daughter's husband, my husband, our other two daughters and myself. Voluntary Assisted Dying should only be accessed by the terminal ill. The patient should be of sound mind and the Voluntary Assisted Dying Declaration needs to be put in place at an appropriate time prior to their passing.

PLEASE LISTEN TO THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED SEEING A LOVE ONE SUFFER. WE WOULD NOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN TO OUR FAMILY PETS SO HOW IS IT ACCEPTABLE TO WATCH A HUMAN STRUGGLE THROUGH THEIR END OF LIFE.