

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 349
Submitted by: Kim [REDACTED]
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Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Eligibility criteria* ,The request and assessment process,Safeguards,Other
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I am writing this because I don't want anyone else to go through what we went through watching my dad die a very cruel death . He died with out dignity and in excruciating pain. All this could have been prevented.

My dad died because he fell and hit his head causing bleeds in the brain. This happened because he had dementia and forgot how to walk. As well as dementia he had cancer and a bad heart which required a lot of medication. He was admitted to [REDACTED] and we were given a choice let him die a painful death from the bleeds or take him off all the heart medication and let him go with less pain. This did not happen and the experience we had was totally deverstating. The way my father was treated by the [REDACTED] was totally disgusting. My father was dying and they put him in a general ward with all the lights and noise making it more painful for my father. He was in so much pain he cried and begged us to kill him not once but a number of times. They kept taking him off the morphine because they kept trying to rehabilitate him because they didn't read his chart correctly. I had to fight with the staff to give pain relief one nurse even told us because he had dementia they don't feel much pain so he didn't need it . My father had suffered a lot of pain he had both knees and hip replaced. He also had a triple bypass and stints in . He never complained or whinge about the pain so watching him beg to stop the pain we knew the pain he was in was unbearable. The way [REDACTED] treated him was totally incompetent they showed him no respect and did so many things that were wrong . I should not leave at night letting staff know my father had soiled himself and come back in the next morning to find him in the same state with dried faeces up his back. I then had to clean and change my father because they were to busy and I had to wait. All this while he rolled around in pain because he still had not had his pain relief which was due at 7am and it was 9 am and he was still waiting. This went on for weeks the list of things the hospital did wrong is hugh and my father suffered while he died . He only got to spend a few days in palliative care before he died. They had a bed for him but couldn't find him because he was lost in the system. My father was so hypersensitive from the pain when he got to palliative care they had to use the bed to roll him. My father suffered so unnecessary all the pain he suffered could have been prevented his one wish was that he died with some dignity and that was robbed from him . My mum had to watch him die like that He was the love of her life and they were still happy after 50 years odd years of marriage . She looked after him right up till he had the fall. Our whole family has suffered watching how my dad died. We didn't get to say goodbye properly because he was suffering so much. He was dying and he should have had the choice to be able to die with out all the sufferings. Before the dementia got bad dad always said he did not want to suffer. We don't let our animals suffer so don't let him . Dad use to joke just take him out and shoot him when he gets to the stage he can't remember and is a burden.

After watching dad slowly die and sit listening to his death rattle knowing he was suffering breaks your heart and I don't want others to go though what we have. Apart from the incompetence of the [REDACTED] my dad suffered and had no chance of recovery he should have been able to die when he was ready and not have suffered like he did. This bill needs to be passed for people who are dying they have a right to die with some dignity. My dad was a kind, gentle man who loved his family and was a true gentleman who worked hard all his life he deserved a better death than the one he got. My mum and the rest of our family deserve to have the right to have better memories of my dad dying instead of the hell we went through watching our dad die begging for us to stop the pain and kill him.