

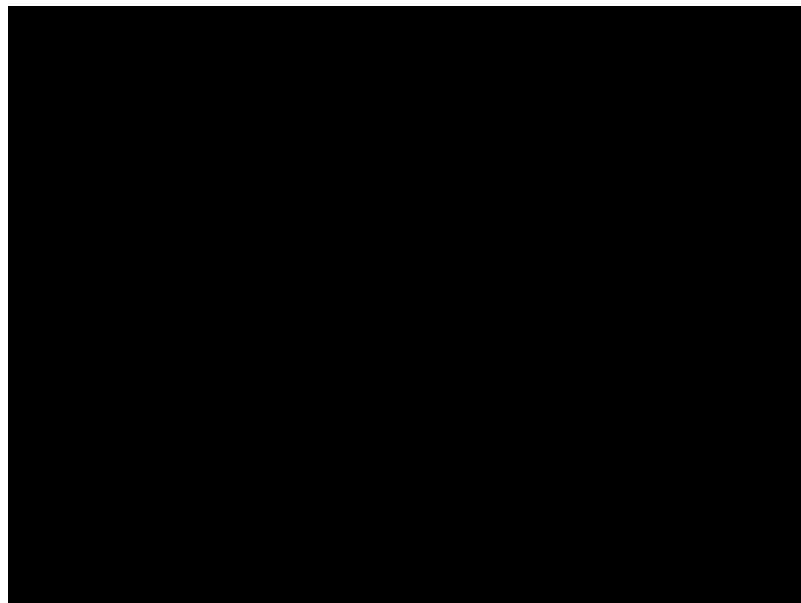
**Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021**

**Submission No.:** 352  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Position:** I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill  
**Comments in relation to:** Eligibility criteria\*  
**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

[REDACTED]

My mother died almost 5 years ago in a nursing home. It was not an easy death. She went into the home – a small very good one with the most caring staff – but declined quickly as she did not want to be there. No matter how hard the staff try to have relevant activities the residents spend many hours just sitting. Mum had mild dementia when she went into the home but this quickly took over and she also suffered a series of strokes which robbed her of her sight, movement, cognition, speech. Many times she did not remember me or long term friends who visited and when she did she was very distressed. Much of her latter days were filled with hallucinations and poor behaviour which was the opposite to her real self. She was bed bound with rails up, then the mattress lowered to the floor as she kept trying to get out though she could not stand as she had broken her hip again in a fall. She could not swallow food/liquid or take any medication and I could see no 'life' in her eyes. I know she would not have wanted to end her life this way and it was very distressing for those around her. There is no dignity in allowing a loved one to go through such an end, and is an insult to a person who gave her life to helping others. All her life she had been heavily involved in the Sunshine Club which raised funds for country children to stay in the Far West childrens hostel while attending hospitals in Sydney. Mum would help at various fund raisers, families she heard of who needed help, or any organisation she heard of that she thought she could contribute to in some way.

She cared so much for others but we let her die in such a miserable suffering way. I know I want better when my time comes and strongly believe that we have the right to make this decision.



This photo was taken when she was still "well". Her great grand daughter beside her



12 March 2021