

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 430
Submitted by: Sheila Sim
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Eligibility criteria* ,The request and assessment process
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I am aware that members of the community have expressed concern that terminally ill people may feel pressured to seek VAD, may feel ""a burden"", or be subject to other subtle forms of coercion.

I fully support the key tenet of the draft VAD Bill, that the terminally ill person is fully at the centre of the process and they alone can initiate the request. They have to maintain consistency in their request through each carefully considered stage of the process. From my professional and personal experience, I consider that this measured, unhurried timeframe provides time for reflection and an opportunity for medical practitioners, carers, contact persons etc to observe any evidence of coercion or hesitation. The process itself provides important safeguards as outlined in e.g. 8.475-77.

I fully support the draft VAD Bill as tabled. I consider that it has drawn on interstate and international experience, and lengthy consultations, to provide a compassionate and inclusive legal framework for Queenslanders to access VAD.