

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 449
Submitted by: Margaret O'Shea
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We do not support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Eligibility criteria*
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

For the last 18 months we have watched our nation and the world fight soooooo hard against the pandemic and it's related issues that affect life and there has been the most valiant struggle to defeat this killer disease that humanity shines, striving to protect and prolong the life of all. It is such a contrast, such a complete reverse for this legislation. It is presented under the guise of 'freedom of choice', 'individuals' rights', 'well-being of patients', but it is a twisted and incorrect presentation as it denies the right and proper place of palliative care for those who are suffering. No one should have to choose between pain and death. We have the scientific and medical capability to help people who are suffering, to allow them to live out their days with the dignity of being cared for and experience the love that makes humanity actually human.

Human nature, being imperfect, keeps developing towards an ever-decreasing framework of being able to make an effort for the good of others. Some patients and challenged individuals, who should be entitled to quality care, will be at the risk of the coercion and impatience of a darker side of humanity who sometimes chooses not to do what is right and proper. Studies and stories from Belgium, who introduced such legislation over 20 years ago, finds itself in heart-wrenching situations where doctors make decisions before families are consulted - a very slippery slope of less and less accountability.

Australia is such a great and unique nation and it has that reputation from being able to care for one another. the Aussie mateship something to be treasured and upheld. It didn't result from easy street... from governments taking an easy and misinformed option to please a very vocal few, but from the ANZAC spirit that fought against the odds to help each other to survive, providing the love and care for each other when needed.

I'm am truly sad. As a teacher of 45 years, I have long witnessed the struggle of the marginalised to have a 'fair go', to be properly informed, to have access to all the available options of the educated and I see this legislation as a literal nail in their coffin, making it even more difficult not to be at the mercy of 'informed but merciless' government policy.

I pray that you will have the courage to vote against this legislation, for life to be valued, cared for and given the capability for natural causes to have the last word, rather than a well-meaning practitioner who thinks they may know better than God, who is the true and only author of life. My opinion is held by many older people, all who are already living in fear of what may result for them.

I beg you... please do not support this legislation.