

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 456
Submitted by: Anna van den Brenk
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Other
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

My mother never begged for anything in her life until the end of her life when she begged my brother and sister to find a way to end her life. I was living overseas at the time but had been back to visit her and been horrified to see her condition as she succumbed to Motor Neuron Disease. It was not until recently that our mother's very painful death was described to me by them as they saw no point in distressing me when there was nothing I could do from afar.

Her body was almost totally paralysed by motor neurone disease but, nevertheless, she was still feeling the severe pain of shingles. Her final words to them were "No one would let a dog live like this, I beg you to do something - I know your father can't".

They tell me they just wept in hopelessness, as the family watched one of their members being tortured, and hoping for a swift end. That was over thirty years ago and I am now older than my mother was when she mercifully died. We are still crying, not for her death, but the most appalling end to her life. And still nothing has changed. The distress of the patient is carried on in the life of those left behind.

So today I am asking you to be part of making that change.
Thank you,