

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 469
Submitted by: Ross McPherson
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:

I am in my 50's and was diagnosed with an incurable rare blood cancer five years ago. The last 5 years of treatment have been a challenge both physically and mentally. Getting my head around the knowledge that there are no guarantees on how long we live or the quality of that life is very tough especially when you are on the receiving end. I'm fortunate that there are a number of treatments available to combat my cancer but I am acutely aware that one day those treatments will run their course and my body will finally succumb to the cancer. Rather than ignore that time I have been looking at how that might play out, which is tough to do but I believe I owe it to my family. Palliative care seems to be the only option whereby I am drug induced and bed ridden while my organs slowly shut down. The duration of this late stage is unknown, the pain I experience will be unknown, the level of consciousness I will have is also unknown. These are all pretty scary thoughts to confront but I know most of us have to face this as we eventually reach our end of life. VAD will be a wonderful option to have. It will allow me to say goodbye to my family and make sure they are all ready for my end and moving forward with their lives. VAD will take away all of those unknowns. When my body begins to fail me and I am unable to function I know it will be only a matter of time. I don't know if I will take up the VAD option but would dearly love to have it available should my body decide it can't fight any more. Thank you.