

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 891
Submitted by: Dying With Dignity NSW
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Conscientious objection by either individuals or entities
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Dying With Dignity NSW believes very strongly that it is essential to retain the provision in the Bill which would require an institution with a conscientious objection to facilitate a person's access to voluntary assisted dying (VAD) if that is what they want. It is unconscionable for an institution who has care for that person to block their access to a lawful process at their time of greatest suffering. We believe that the right of a person/institution to hold a conscientious objection must be balanced against the right of a patient to have the best care, including access to VAD if they want it. It is a problem that religious institutions which object to VAD have such a major role in hospital and hospice care. We believe that such institutions should facilitate the visit of health practitioners from outside the institution to enter and carry out VAD assessments. We also believe that such institutions should allow VAD to be administered on site if that is in the best interests of the patient, that is, if moving the patient somewhere else would add to their suffering. This is the compassionate way.