

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 909
Submitted by: Kate Erwin
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We do not support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: The request and assessment process, Administration of the substance, Safeguards, Conscientious objection by either individuals or entities, Oversight and review
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I urge all people involved with this bill to vote against and desist in pursuing its advancement.

My most grave concern is that, as a wealthy country we are becoming a country that is utilitarian. A culture that has no time for each other, for others needs, sufferings or trials. That we are disconnected and too busy to slow down and be present. Those who are unwell, depressed and suffering are not worthy of the effort, the money or the time to honour their life's ending moments with dignity. That there will be people who have the power to authorise another's death and those that administer death to another human being.

Life is a gift. It is sacred. I have had my fair share of suffering. I have been through cancer and have also been at the bedside of my dying 6week old sons' side as he drew breaths to fight for his life...for 8 long hours! The suffering the agony was unbearable. In that moment, I wished for anything to stop his suffering. Fortunately he received the care and medications he needed to make him comfortable. Today he is a strong healthy and happy young boy of 9yrs. He was voted Aussie of the month by his school leaders for being a true blue mate (kind, helpful with a fighting spirit). For this I'm thankful.

Life...early life, end of life and middle life is precious. It is. Or something that we should stamp out but rather something we should valiantly support through palliative care and services for those who are vulnerable.

The possibilities for abuse regarding euthanasia are vast. Elder abuse, the marginalised, drug affected or coerced, severely economically challenged people will feel a sense of the 'burden' that they may bring. A passive and insidious pressure to 'just hurry up and get it over with.' This is not the medical philosophy we should be inviting into our hospitals. Rather I urge us all to realise the nature of life itself and the desperate safeguards we need to ensure the dignity of life and death itself is held in nature's hands, gently and without interference other than to assist as best as possible with comfort and support.