

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 921
Submitted by: James Wilson
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* ,Safeguards,Conscientious objection by either individuals or entities,Oversight and review,Other
Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:

This act is very vague in the most important areas, eligibility criteria, the request and assessment process, administration of the substance, safeguards, conscientious objection by either individuals or entities and oversight and review. There are only vague criteria determining important requirements. There should be defined metrics for eligible criteria, not subjective opinions. The emphasis should be the assumption that this act will be abused by money making specialists, uncaring families, and abusive relatives. More care should be taken to ensure mistakes are not made.

There are few provisions to protect those who would counsel the person against the irreversible act. After all, the patient may still change their mind about refraining from dying. However they can't change their mind after they are dead.

It ignores the the fact that with good palliative care, the majority of people would not consider suicide, which is what this is about. This act is in contradiction to organisations, such as Beyond Blue, which are supported by the community.

Furthermore, doctors are there to promote healing and care. It is contradictory therefore to have doctors killing the very people they are caring for.

Why is it going to be so easy to kill a person who has been a respectable citizen of our country, and yet impossible to kill a mass murderer?

This is not a law that a civilised society should make.