

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 923
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Position: I/We do not support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Eligibility criteria* ,The request and assessment process,Safeguards,Conscientious objection by either individuals or entities,Oversight and review,Other
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Eligibility: I understand and appreciate the desire to end one's life but if good palliative care is available and support available then that desire may change. At the very least, the person should be of advanced age and have a terminal illness. Younger people may want to end their lives but progress being made with research that may cure or alleviate or change prognosis. Also, the decision making ability of the person, determination whether family coercing for financial gain (I have seen some dreadful cases of elder abuse for financial gain).

Assessment process: Only a suitably qualified medical practitioner should assess and there needs to be at least one or more such practitioners to sign off, that person to be completely unconnected with the said medical practitioner. A psychiatrist should also be involved in the process to assess person's emotional and mental health.

Safeguards: as above in assessment

Conscientious objection: no doctor or other allied health practitioner should be obliged to refer a patient against their values and beliefs. That is outright coercion and a negation of freedom, especially given the Hippocratic oath to preserve life. To require this is unconscionable.

Oversight and review: This should be by an independent body, and not all with the same viewpoint.

Other: I do view this legislation with considerable concern. It has been shown that the new abortion laws have enabled many more women to abort in late pregnancy. Who is as vulnerable as the child in the womb? Now it is undoubtedly to get elderly who are the target. Unfortunately I am reminded of the atrocities committed by the Nazis in WW2 when babies had to be Aryan and the elderly and infirm gassed - yes this was directed against the Jewish race but personally I find there is little difference. Just the method. What are we coming to? Is there to be no compassion, love and care? Please provide more palliative care so that people feel valued and loved.