

Health and Environment Committee

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 30 June 2021 7:27 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: VAD support request

Categories: Submission

Hi

As someone who has had to sit with a number of family member as they die and leave me with so many dreadful memories. I support the application of Voluntary Assisted Dying.

Three family members suffered their last years in agony, frustration and grief. I got to sit with them through to the end.

My mum, cried a lot as she was passing away, for months and months, she had pain but due to her abusive childhood she had learnt to not acknowledge her pain. Once we were able to work this out this became better. Mum had 11 children, she wanted those who were still alive to be with her when she died. Problem was we were spread far and wide, Western Australia, South Australia, NSW and Queensland.

Mum had had enough, on the Thursday she and I met with her doctor and mum told him, she wants the pain to stop, she wants to go and be with Jesus and who husband and other children. The doctor said for him to stop her pain when end her life, was that what she wanted. He checked that I understood. Friday I got my older sister to come and hear mums pleads with the doctor and again he asked if we all understood.

The doctor said that mum would probably pass away Sunday morning about 9am. Mum respond “time for church in heaven, what a celebration it will be”.

Not all family got there in time. All mums daughters where there and then one of the two living sons got there just after she passed away. Mums dying was so traumatic, I sobbed during the process to God to take her because of the noises she was making.

My brother in his passing was better, I got to share songs, stories, and prayers with him and he slipped away, added like mum but he didn't struggle with the breathing- as hard as it was I found it a great pleasure to be close to my brother in his dying moments.

Doctors treat pain, to do it to the required extent does take like. It makes it better for all involved.

We are a very large family with major health issues in our genetics. Death has been a big part of my life. My father dying when I was 8 years old.

My beautiful niece is dying, 34years of age—cancer. I want her to be able to die in the forest near her home, having a family picnic and enjoying the time as she slips away with the people she loves and in the forest which she tries to go to every day.

I have just heard while writing this that she is in hospital.

Please give her the dignity that my other family members have not had.

As a Christian I hear church elders saying it's a sin. But Jesus on the cross asked “God his father to let the cup of suffering pass him”. As a Christian to allow others the suffer when Jesus the son of God who is

greater than me, to not speak up and ask for this suffering to be stopped, for my love ones and for myself seems acceptable- When Jesus asked the same thing.

Please accept my request as sincere and humble that the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act be accepted and passed in my state- Queensland.

Yours sincerely

Christine Gay Parker

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