

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 1084
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Eligibility criteria*
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I don't believe the option to end a life impaired by severe and unresolved pain should be viewed so negatively. I do not see a need to rule in or out 'eligible or ineligible diseases'. I think it's up to the individual. At present, a person assessed as cognitively capable and able to make their own decision can fly to Switzerland and access such a service. This option is therefore only available to those who can afford it which is inequitable. VAD and DNR has become more important because the medical profession can extend a person's existence beyond that desired by the individual concerned. Moreover, personal stories have shown palliative care does not relieve suffering in all cases. There seems to be a patronising patrician aspect to who makes decisions about this matter. Many medical practitioners and religious leaders suffer from this attitude. I think VAD is a rather watered down version of what should be available and what individuals want but at least it's a start. I would hope any such service is available to everyone including rural, regional and remote communities and at the very least to enable open discussions about VAD using Telehealth if one-to-one meetings aren't possible (such as now during COVID). Certainly any reference to this option being characterised as suicide should be dismissed out of hand. I believe a patient should have the right to access this option as a legal medical treatment, just like any other. I accept that some would object. It therefore needs to be made transparent to the public who and what institutions object so that patients have the option to be moved &/or treated by others who are supportive. Given we are all going to face the end of our life, surely more effort should be made to ensure it is as good as it can be, rather than a miserable process of stress and arguments.