

**Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021**

**Submission No.:** 1087  
**Submitted by:** Shayne Higson  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Position:** I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill  
**Comments in relation to:** Eligibility criteria\* ,The request and assessment process,Administration of the substance,Safeguards,Conscientious objection by either individuals or entities,Oversight and review,Other  
**Attachments:** No attachment

**Submitter Comments:**

I have made numerous submissions over the past nine years. My beautiful Mum, Jan died of brain cancer in late 2012. The end stage of her illness was so traumatic that I have devoted my life, ever since, to achieving voluntary assisted dying laws for all Australians.

I am afraid that I am so busy with the NSW VAD campaign that I do not have time to write a detailed submission, again, but please know that I strongly support the current draft of the Queensland VAD Bill including the eligibility criteria, the request and assessment process, the administration process, the safeguards and the oversight and review provisions.

The only points that I wish to raise are regarding the institutional conscientious objection and a complaints process.

I do not believe that institutions should be able to block access to Voluntary Assisted Dying because there should be patient-centred care. A patient's right to access a legal medical treatment, including VAD, should be given priority.

As far as a complaints process goes, I think there should be a separate ombudsman or other complaints process for those dying individuals who are actively being hindered from accessing the VAD law.

I apologise for not providing a more detailed submission but the Queensland VAD law reform process has been exceptional and it is now time to debate and pass this much-needed law.