

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 1107
Submitted by: Frances Maw
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill but recommend some changes to it.
Comments in relation to: Eligibility criteria* ,The request and assessment process,Administration of the substance
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

* Permission from a doctor and/or psychiatrist should not be mandatory when a person request VAD. An individual is the only one who can know when pain or loss of independence and quality of life are unbearable.

* the request and assessment process needs to be simplified. When a person is terminal he/she should not have to wait until pain is unbearable or medication makes lucid thought impossible.

*The Royal Commission into Aged Care revealed the living nightmare many sick, dependent people endure in understaffed facilities. Any person witnessing the indignity and suffering that was exposed would wish for themselves a peaceful, dignified passing rather than a living nightmare.

* If a person of sound mind has made a living will requesting VAD and later develops dementia, the living will should be recognised as a valid instruction.

*If a person has a living will requesting VAD, but is unable because of injury or stroke to self administer the substance, a doctor or family member should be able to administer the substance.

*In conclusion, admittedly, there is a great deal of money made in keeping sick and dependent people alive for as long as possible in nursing homes. A cynic may think that many who are against VAD may profit from these institutions. These people may change their minds when diagnosed with a debilitating or terminal disease, or alternatively, they may hopefully reap what they have sown.