

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 1108
Submitted by: Wendy [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Other
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill in Qld. I have had several friends and family members dying in the past couple of years and these experiences have focused my thoughts on dying and end of life care. Two people (in their early sixties , suffering from cancer , living in Canada, accessed the Voluntary Dying legislation there) One- my sister in law used it - she had [REDACTED] and when her suffering became intolerable to her, she gathered her family around her to say good bye and they were all at her bedside together in the hospital when the medication was administered. She died a peaceful death surrounded by love. The second person my friend who was also approved, didn't end up using the medication but it was there if he felt he needed it. He also died at home surrounded by love . Importantly they both had a choice.

I think the main thing about Voluntary Assisting Dying is that it is VOLUNTARY. I reject arguments that it is a slippery slope or that people will be coerced. If I should come to a point in my life, when I am gravely ill, faced with the inevitability of my death in the near future, and I am suffering , in pain, losing all quality of life, and possibly control over my bodily functions , I would want the legal option to exercise my right to autonomy over my own life and death and be able to effect a decision to end my suffering at a time of my choosing, with dignity, with my family and loved ones with me .

I do not subscribe to a religious belief that suffering at the end of life is somehow redemptive spiritually and I do not want medical professionals who do have this (probably genuinely held belief) to be able to dictate to me what I can and cannot do because of their belief system. They are free to hold those beliefs and to conduct their own lives in accordance but I strongly feel that their religious beliefs should not impact on my life and access to health care.

That is why it is important to me that Voluntary Assisted Dying is enshrined in law - that it is regulated , transparent, and open . People who are facing death should have autonomy and as much control as is possible over this last stage of life . They should have the right to choose a kinder, gentler, more dignified passing. No one should have to suffer needlessly for someone else's beliefs.