

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 1142
Submitted by: Name withheld
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Position: I/We do not support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: The request and assessment process,Safeguards,Oversight and review
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I am concerned that people who are terminally ill may be subject to pressure by people close to them - including their family members and even medical practitioners - to strongly consider ending their life. If you are very ill, scared and/or aged, you may feel very pressured to consider the option. The person may be made to feel selfish for not going along with what their children would prefer, for example. The person may also be made to feel like they are wasting money by continuing to live and using their financial resources to fund it, rather than dying now, ensuring their children will benefit more. Emotional coercion is a very real issue for the elderly, especially, when they must surrender so much independence and feel bound to do as their family members decide - they might even feel threatened.

There might be more pressure on a person to think they should elect for VAD so as to spare their family the experience of seeing them die in a longer drawn out way, for example.

I worry that the introduction of the VAD Bill will make choosing a time of death the preferred option for those in the categories listed and it will make it more difficult for those who wish to die at the time of nature's choosing, as over time, the societal acceptance of VAD will become overwhelming and may even lead to a wider category list of those who elect for it. I think there should be far more money spent on palliative care services and more focus on end of life quality.