

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 1146
Submitted by: Fay Wise
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,Conscientious objection by either individuals or entities
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I fully support VAD legislation. It provides peace of mind for people with terminal illnesses that they can have a dignified end of life experience at the time of their choosing when their pain and suffering becomes overwhelming.

Eligibility criteria:

I strongly commend the draft writers on making eligibility available at 12 months instead of 6 months, as is the case with other states. We all realise that unbearable suffering can occur for many people with terminal illnesses well before 6 months of life expectancy. Why make people suffer until an arbitrary time is arrived at.

Requests and assessment process:

I hope that arrangements will be included in the VAD legislation that consider people living in rural and isolated situations. They will need special considerations for their pain and suffering to avoid travelling long distances to access VAD.

Conscientious objection by either individuals or entities:

I fully accept that some people will disagree with VAD. However, they should not be given the right to control terminally ill people's right to a peaceful death at the time of their own choosing. Individuals can only voice their objections for themselves by refusing to accept VAD for themselves at the appropriate time. Institutions likewise should not be given the ability to take away a terminally ill person's right to access VAD if they choose. It needs to be clear in the legislation that nursing homes run by religious organisations, for example, do not have the power to refuse a terminally ill person living in that home, the right to access VAD if they wish to do so.