

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

**Submission No.:** 1149  
**Submitted by:** Name withheld  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Position:** I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill  
**Comments in relation to:** Other  
**Attachments:** No attachment

**Submitter Comments:**

I am well aware that 'assisted dying' has been practiced 'unofficially' within one particular sector for several past decades. By necessity, it has always been done in secret 'behind closed doors'. I have no doubt it has been, and continues to be practiced in other sectors, and – as a last, desperate resort – by clients themselves with little or no support.

Time is long overdue for this very sensitive and important issue to be brought out from the shadows and into the light to ensure we are openly and transparently focused on compassionate, client-centred options – and not on facilitating even more distress to dying people than they are already enduring.

Within all the appropriate eligibility, checks and balances being diligently upheld, the clients' right to self-determination and their final decisions made free of coercion must be listened to and respected. We are currently more compassionate, kinder and humane to terminally ill animals than we are to terminally ill fellow human beings. This must change – and change now.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you.