

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 1154
Submitted by: Rendle Hannah
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:

1. Life expectancy requirement - this should be at least 12 months. Living with intolerable pain and/or inability to participate in life, can last for years. So a 3 year time frame is more realistic - and experience shows that the relief of being able to "call time" on life often takes the stress away, and few actually end up availing themselves of VAD. Six months is too short.
2. As someone who has lived in a remote rural setting for most of my life, equality of access to VAD needs to be fair. To this end, the availability of telehealth access is really important, especially as the health of those wishing to access VAD is likely to make travel very difficult to impossible.
3. I support the ability of individual health professionals to be able to decline involvement (conscientious objection).
4. Institutions which receive government funding should be required to provide access to VAD. This includes private hospitals, and in particular nursing homes. Being run by a religious organisation should not be grounds to deny, or make it difficult to obtain access to VAD. Participation in providing public services should also require obligations for access to all legally approved services. Religious beliefs should not provide exception - the fact that they are supported financially to provide services which help them gain credibility and respect for their beliefs, should also require full participation in the services that the community recognises should be available in those types of settings.