

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 1196
Submitted by: Margaret Whalen
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Eligibility criteria* ,Other
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I believe it is my right to decide how and when I die. I would like to die in a dignified manner, without suffering, with those I choose present. What you/the law may consider an acceptable way to live may not be my choice. Mental suffering and loss of dignity can make living unbearable.

I had a 97 year old friend who was declining. She did not like what was happening to her life and tried to end it. An unforeseeable incident meant she was found and "saved". Her life continued to deteriorate and she needed to go into a nursing home. Her worst fears realised. Then she was dropped and her hip broken. Her care was provided by people who's first language was not english, nor did they have consideration of their patients as people. She refused to have a complaint made as feared retaliation. There was no family locally and she was under the care of an administrator. As I was "just" a friend, I had no influence. It broke my hear to see this wonderful, intellengent, well travelled and well ready,lady (in the true sense of the word) suffering all the indignities being forced upon her. This was not what she wanted.

I might also add that the Dr who saw her in hospital said that if she tried it (killing herself) again, he'd have her committed. She was 97!

I had been a supporter of Dying with Dignity prior to this, but this event definitely reinforced my belief in your right to choose.