

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 1200
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: Eligibility criteria* ,Administration of the substance,Safeguards
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I believe everyone person has the right to die with dignity. 26 years ago I nursed my mother in law in her final weeks of throat cancer, I watched her wither away to nothing, & although she hid alot of her pain from the family she couldn't hide it from me. I wished she hasn't suffered so long and had the choice to end her life peacefully.

Just over 8 years ago I agreed to nurse my Dad when he & mum could no longer look after him with the help of the palliative care team so he could have his final wish to die at home. So when the time came I moved my life from Brisbane to Rubyvale central QLD to honour his final wish. I was truly honoured to do this for my Dad and he was all in favour of assisted dying but it sadly wasn't available then.💎 so we had to wait for his time to come to an end. Dad had a advanced health directive he had filled in and organised correctly with his GP. I knew where it was kept. One night unbeknown to me I think Dad drank a bottle of morphine and tryed to finish his life. When he kept sleeping the next day mum said that was quite normal for him as he was so sick he would often sleep most of the day. Later that day mum and I realised that the bottle was empty and we called the Dr and family members expecting the worse that Dad would go, but sadly he survived this whole experience got out of control when a family member called an ambulance and the police. This was very traumatic for us all. I was then in protector warrior mode, I was not going to allow the ambulance to take Dad anywhere his wish was to die at home. Thankfully he had his health directive. How i nevergot arrested that night is beyond me, all I know is my Dad was going no where. I never did find out who made that call. Any way it was about another 10 days before Dad passed, each day harder than the day before. Till he took his last breath, that sound I will never forget the gurgling horrible choking sound when we sat him up and tryed to move him on his side and he choked himselfto death from the pneumonia. So much happened in only a few weeks, so much was horrible & the worst part is if you weren't there I can't talk to you about it. As like everyone else to protect my family and loved ones & to keep Dads dignity we told every he went peacefully. Well i can tell you there was nothing peacefull about that. After mum, my sister and I said our good byes we let Bates Dads beloved mate his dog say good bye to him. We went out to the patio to make the calls we needed too, leaving Bates with Dad. Bates was up on the bed with Dad and he was licking his face and cleaning him. It was so beautiful. Until i walked past & seen that Bates had licked all dad's top lip away and half his nose, it had all just caved away aound dads mouth and nose there was like a bigh hole in my Dads face. It was not the last thing I wanted to see and remember of my Dad. From the time I suspected Dad had drank that morphine till the time he died was just horrible, traumatic he could of gone alot more peacefully with all his family around him. Not this failed horrible attempt and then days off suffering waiting in agonising pain for his last breath to choke hom to death.one

When I look back on this time I am still very honoured to of given my Dad his final wish to die at home.

As well as being honoured to nurse my 52 year old mother in law in her final 6 weeks of life.

But if I could of made it less painful and less suffering for them I would of.

So I am in favour for assisted dying In QLD. So people have a choice.
My Dad wanted a choice and he didn't have it. So he had to suffer for longer than he needed to. My Dad was a strong hard working smart man he knew his body and he knew his time was coming to an end but he didn't deserve to suffer any longer than he could handle. He should of had the right to decide when enough was enough. But he wasn't given the choice so when he tried to do it on his own it caused alot of unnecessary suffering not only for himself but for us who nursed for him.