

From: [REDACTED]
To: [VAD Review Secretariat](#)
Subject: Voluntary Assisted Dying
Date: Saturday, 2 January 2021 12:04:49 PM

Annie Fagan

[REDACTED]
02/01/2021

I am writing to support Mike Gaffney's End of Life Choices (Voluntary Assisted Dying) Bill.

I worked as a Registered Nurse for fifty years. Nurses spend more time caring for the dying and their families than any other health professionals and I have witnessed some wretched dying. I have also been privy to sad and tormented confidential conversations where loved ones, despite palliative care, had chosen death, a dreadful death! But clearly not so dreadful as the suffering. Mike Gaffney has many sad stories to confirm this. Instead, imagine for those, the peace and dignity of a legal death being surrounded by loved ones, able to say their last words, conscious until the last minutes, relieved that suffering would be finally ended.

We must remember VAD is there to meet the needs of people who are dying, i.e. with no chance of recovery or improvement, having sought all other relief. Intolerable is not just about pain, it includes both mental and emotional suffering.

It is important to remember the Bill is about "Choices" and "Voluntary" The Bill cites criminal consequences concerning "Abuse".

There are frequent comments that Palliative Care is critical. There is no argument, The Tasmanian Bill states that those seeking VAD, must be told how to access Palliative Care, however most already have. Sadly for a small number it isn't enough, Palliative Care recognises this. VAD is for these sufferers if they choose.

If one were to read the most comprehensive one hundred and fifty seven pages of the proposed bill, there is not one question that could not be answered to refute those opposed to VAD, it is so

stringent. Disability, mental illness and dementia are not eligible in this bill as misquoted on numerous occasions by those arguing coercion. Elder abuse; not one case has been documented.

According to The Roy Morgan Poll in November 2017, eighty five percent of Tasmanians were in agreement with VAD. There could not be a safer, more compassionate and more researched bill than Mike Gaffney's proposal. Even if you yourself are opposed, please vote on behalf of the large majority of Tasmanian people.

Sincerely,
Annie Fagan.

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad