
From: Charlotte Hespe
Sent: Tuesday, 21 December 2021 5:33 PM
To: Law;
Subject: CM: RE: Provisions of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 - Post-hearing responses - 13 December 2021
Attachments: Transcript - VAD Bill 2021 - 13 December 2021 - UNCORRECTED CH.pdf
Record Number: D22/01050

Please find my comments on the transcript regarding the areas where the audio malfunctioned
Please also find the summary of my opening statement as requested by the Deputy Chair

Consistent with national policy and position, the RACGP NSW&ACT Faculty is generally supportive of this Bill subject to its:

1. explicitly precluding acts that do not constitute voluntary assisted dying or assisted suicide such as:
 - withholding or withdrawing medical treatment in contradiction of a person's previously expressed wishes and/or where they retain capacity and have refused life sustaining interventions
 - withholding or withdrawing futile treatment
 - administering palliative medication with the intention of relieving pain and suffering with the understanding that the treatment may hasten death
 - administering terminal or palliative sedation to induced decreased or absent awareness so as to relieve otherwise intractable suffering.

2. existing within a framework that first the dignity, wishes, and interests of the dying person at the centre of all decision-making and:
 - prioritises and adequately funds high quality end of life and palliative care to address the needs of all patients at end of life, not only those who wish to request voluntary assisted dying
 - recognises and supports the role of general practice as central to meeting society's growing need for high quality end-of-life care.

Kind regards,

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