

**Submission
No 4**

**INQUIRY INTO PROVISIONS OF THE VOLUNTARY
ASSISTED DYING BILL 2021**

Name: Ms Maryanne Platt

Date Received: 1 November 2021

On June 15 2021 my Mother was taken by ambulance to emergency suffering from severe dysphagia. She was a highly intelligent woman with an unquestioned mental capacity and living independently. After 14 days of hospital treatment Mum decided to cease the treatment as there were no further options available to her and she was told " you will die from aspirating or you can die peacefully" and so she began palliative care. This decision she made independently in front of 4 treating doctors. The palliative care team assured Mum with these words "you will be medicated with morphine and be made comfortable without fear or anxiety", 17 days later she died.

Palliative care comprehensively failed my Mum. For 17 days she knew what was happening, most days she was in some type of distress or anxious state, in pain with a constant headache, chest pain and a fear of death. She was starving to death and became quite delirious with hallucinations, as she had not eaten for 30 days. The palliative care framework states that people in palliative care are treated uniquely and their care should be met through their changing needs. My mothers needs were not met as the doctors were told of her high pain threshold as the doses of pain relief that she was on at home far outweighed what she was being given in palliative care.

To this day I am not sure why my brother and I had to watch her suffer for 17 days and why 17 days of dying a slow, traumatic and painful death is considered to be humane in 2021, I truly believe people should be given a choice. We make choices our whole lives and at the end of life a choice should be an option to ensure peace and dignity, two things my Mum was not given.