

**Submission  
No 10**

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

**Name:** Dr Gavin Pattullo

**Date Received:** 9 November 2021

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Dear VAD Committee,

I am a senior staff specialist anaesthetist and pain medicine physician working in Sydney

More importantly I am the husband of Dr Venessa Pattullo. Venessa took her own life in 2018 as she faced a death by slow asphyxiation, a known complication of her 14 years of treatments for acute leukaemia

Our Venessa was the most compassionate, affectionate, loving and intelligent human being. She was not depressed or sad. She just wanted to end her life on her terms, when she wanted and how she wanted. She gave herself the most graceful and dignified death possible. She had laid herself down on our bed for the last time. In death she was as beautiful as she was in life. So much so that family and loved ones lay in our bed next to her, cuddled her and cried. The opportunity for all to do that was the ideal closure for many and Venessa showing to them she knew how important it will be.

Due to the laws of NSW, Venessa was forced to do this alone and without saying a proper goodbye to her loved ones. That is not right.

No more should voices like Venessa's have to be heard.

Please bring NSW into line with the majority of Australia and introduce a VAD without delay.

Venessa's loving husband, Gavin.