

Submission
No 88

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 21 November 2021

Partially
Confidential

I am a physician with 50 years experience, during which I have cared for patients who felt that their time had come and relatives who felt the same, all wanting a dignified exit at a time of their choosing. Palliative care is not the answer for all patients: it is not yet sufficiently well developed for all terminal diseases and is not widely available, no matter what its proponents maintain.

I do not support mercy killing (euthanasia), but doctor-assisted suicide is not euthanasia. It can allow patients a dignified death and can be the ultimate in caring for the patient, whether the assistance is advice or physical assistance for an incapacitated patient, and whether the help is from a medical practitioner or concerned loving family. Of course there need to be protections against abuse, and the present legislation contains them.

NSW is the sole state within Australia to criminalise compassion. Why do NSW citizens have to travel away from their home to be able to exercise their own choice? Why do they need to die alone without loved ones if they want to protect them from the law?