

**Submission
No 89**

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

Name: Mrs Janet Edwards

Date Received: 27 October 2021

I have always been a supporter of voluntary assisted dying (VAD) for those whose belief system accommodates this option. And though I completely respect the individual decision of those who choose not to seek assistance in dying I ask that they not require that their choice be forced on others. My support became personal 3 years ago when my husband died a premature and ugly death from mesothelioma. Palliative care could not help him as he slowly suffocated to death. His condition was terminal. He was always going to die. His wish was to end his life before he began seriously drowning in his own fluids, but in NSW this is illegal. So my four children and I had to watch helplessly as he went through the final stages of extreme physical and existential suffering. 3 years later our family remains traumatised and fractured as a result of this experience and its aftermath.

I urge our politicians to put aside their personal beliefs and political jockeying to vote to pass legislation for voluntary assisted dying in accordance with the wishes of the vast majority of their constituents. Not to do so would be an abrogation of their responsibility as elected representatives of their communities.