

Subject: Unbearable pain not main reason for overseas euthanasia

Dear [Name]

I am writing to oppose the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 (Greenwich Bill)*, released by Alex Greenwich MP for public consultation in July, which aims to legalise both euthanasia and assisted suicide in New South Wales

In places where euthanasia and/or assisted suicide have been legalised, data shows that those who are asking to die are, in the main, doing so for reasons that have nothing to do with the experience of pain.

In Oregon, where assisted suicide has been legal for the last 20 years, the top 5 reasons given for requesting assisted suicide do not mention untreatable pain. The top reasons given are:

- Losing autonomy (90.6%)
- Less able to engage in activities making life enjoyable (89.9%)
- Loss of dignity (73.6%)
- Burden on family, friends/caregivers (47.5%)
- Losing control of bodily functions (43.1%)

Only one in four mentioned inadequate pain control or a concern about it as a reason for requesting assisted suicide.

The legalisation of assisted suicide and euthanasia would have the result of responding to mental and emotional suffering with lethal force.

As a state, we can do better than this.

Please vote 'no' to the Greenwich Bill.

Thank you.