3 Years ago my mother died from Ovarian Cancer. 2 months before she died she attempted to take her own life using oxycontin and a knife. She was threatened with a psychiatric section and admission to a psychogeriatric locked ward for this action. Mum was not depressed or mentally ill. She had a life limiting illness and despite good medical care was suffering. Mum wanted to take control of the end of her life on her own terms and she was denied this. For mum it was the loss of dignity that hurt her the most.

Even in the last few days of her life (in a Palliative care unit) we had to demand and argue with the treating medical team to get her Morphine and Midazolam as the doctors had decided she wasnt in enough pain to warrent that. The day she died they were still wanting to do blood tests (which i refused to allow them to do) and i had to demand analgesia which she got at 2 pm in the afternoon and she died at 4am the next morning. All of this could have been avoided if she had been given the right to chose her own way to die.