

MAKING AN ORAL SUBMISSION

1. Read through your written submission and write a heading, on a card or small piece of paper, for each point that you make in it. You can have the card or paper in your hand to assist your memory - you don't have to memorise the whole thing!
2. Highlight the headings. You could also write down any points or extra detail you might wish to include in case you want to refer to it, but if possible avoid simply reading out your written submission. However, you could have it on hand to give you confidence.
3. Practise your oral submission, before a mirror, or with a flatmate, partner, spouse or family member. Time it. The letter from the Select Committee has probably told you how long you will have to speak but we expect that you will be given at least 5 minutes for an individual and at least 15-20 minutes for an organisation. You might get more. You don't have to 'fill the space' if you have said what you have planned to say. You can say "Thank you. I have finished my oral submission."
Committee members might ask questions or make comments. Resist the urge to talk 'off the cuff' or 'ramble', although you can answer questions of course. You might have a relevant personal story or experience to tell and this can be quite powerful, but time it first, so you don't get cut off in the middle of it!
4. Think of some questions you might get asked and how you might respond, eg Are you religious and is that why you are against euthanasia legalisation?
In answering, points could be:
"There are plenty of non-religious reasons to oppose legalisation, as outlined in my submission."
"Each of us in this room has values from how we see the meaning of life, of being human and of the world, and of the common good and well-being of society. Each of us including Parliamentarians is influenced by those values."
You could practise with a friend role-playing the part of a supporter of legalisation.
If you don't know the answer to a question, you can just say "I don't know" or "I'm not sure" or "I haven't got that information on hand at the moment but I can inquire and get back to you."
The important thing is, don't give in to any temptation to make up information.
5. When you are called to speak, step forward and give your name, thank the Committee for the opportunity to speak, and state that you are opposed to legalisation of Euthanasia or Assisted Suicide. Look at the members as you speak. Then go through your points, trying to get eye contact, looking at one member then another. You could say something like:
"Here are the points I wish to make" then say each heading, then go back and give more detail for each one, or perhaps just one or two of them.
Going through the points at the start ensures that they are covered if you get interrupted or led off track.
6. Just do your best. The fact that you appear before the Committee and express your opposition to legalisation has an important effect. The points you make are the icing on the cake!

Best Wishes for your Oral Submission.