

# Presenter Disclosure

**Presenter: Margaret McKee**

**Relationships with commercial interests: None.**

# Disclosure of Commercial Support

**This program has received financial support from:  
None**

**This program has received in-kind support: None**

**Potential for conflict(s) of interest: None**

# The impact on physicians of providing MAiD

Presentation to CAMAP

May 5, 2018

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# Take-away #1

The actual experience of providing MAiD – of being at the bedside of these patients and getting to know them, of being the one who relieves them of their suffering and eases them towards the death they desire – has been **profoundly positive, meaningful, even life-transforming** for the providers.

“And you’ve got a suffering human being there, and it’s the peak of human interaction, that you know, to be able to do that for another person, it's a gift, its just very very special and I really I feel that I am very lucky to to be able to do that.”

“It’s such a wonderful feeling right, that you’re so appreciated. How often can you, especially as a family doctor, do something that has such an impact?”

“It’s beautiful to know that we could do something that made such a difference. I had one patient who said to me at the end of our interview: **‘you know this is going to sound weird... but thank you for saving my life’.**”

“Hopefully someday we’d have it that every family doctor is providing MAiD in routine cradle to grave care...but even if that happens, I don’t.. it might sound bizarre, but **that intimacy, that connection to have with people, that emotional clarity, that's almost like a high** – I don’t want to call it a high, cause that almost makes you sound really odd. But, **I wouldn’t want to lose it.. it keeps me in touch with everything that's important in life.**”



“Medicine changes me every day, like in the things that I have the honour to be a part of ...and to be the one there to hear the last words, or the last sayings of love ...I think that's **why I migrate [to MAiD], because it's very real, and it's very authentic in a world that can be very inauthentic.**”

“You know, I can really say I’m a doctor now.  
I used to always say I was a [specialist].”

“... I love my job, but the the depth of this connection, and the intensity of the connection is really something that's new to me, you know, 15 years into my career.”

“... and it helps you really think through the meaning of your own life, and how you interact with your family members, and what’s actually important and, and it clarifies that enormously, by doing this kind of work.”

“You leave [after the provision], feeling just **completely in touch with the universe**, like you go home, you see your loved ones, and you see them, like as if it was the first time, like you appreciate every single moment that you have, for the rest of that day. Like, colours are brighter, music sounds better, like **it’s sad, but it’s an incredible endorsement of life and understanding like, what it means to be alive, and enjoying every minute.**”

“No, I’m not suffering from this kind of stress. Its stressful, of course, but its not *that* kind of stress.”

“I’m committed to doing it for as long as I’m practicing medicine, and **nothing that I have learned in the past year and a half has suggested to me that it has a deleterious impact on me, my life, my views, my enjoyment of life, my ability to practice, my abilities to be a friend and family member and those kinds of things. I think it’s actually only enhanced.**”

“The drain that happens is a replenishable one, and counteracted by the reward.”



# **The major sources of stress?**

Administrative and institutional obstacles  
to providing MAiD.

# **The perfect storm:**

Idealistic and highly committed people

PLUS high rewards for the work

AND

Huge administrative headaches

# **Strategy #1:**

Organize and advocate

# **Strategy #2: Care**

Caring actually confers some protective benefit. It is what sustains you. It is what makes the work meaningful.

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