

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Inquiry into End of Life Options
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I support appropriate pain relief and palliative care as the best medical means to care for all people in their dying times.

Euthanasia or assisted suicide are not medical care and go against all ethical principles of good medicine. They negate the Hippocratic Oath of doing no harm and bring scandal to the medical profession. To involve medical practitioners or lay people in the deliberate killing of another human being is barbaric. True "mercy" and "dignity" can only be achieved by supporting the dying person in all their needs - physical, mental, psychological and spiritual, at the same time assisting family members/carers as they journey with the dying person.

The experience of countries such as Belgium and the Netherlands shows clearly that the boundaries of legality are not enforced, and cannot be. They have become instead, more and more fluid, with death without consent commonplace. The last thing Australia needs is a euthanasia industry via state sanctioned killing.

F. Greenough