

29 JUN 2015

Tuesday, June 09, 2015

Dear Mr. Edward O Donohue,

I'm writing in regards to:

**"Inquiry into end of life choices"...Have your say-call for submissions...**

**"Are Victorian laws adequately meeting people's expectations regarding Medical options available at the end of their life?"**

A long time ago, my aunty had suffered a terrible battle, a battle with breast cancer. And while cancer took my aunty, a quick trip to heaven. Why can't we be more open to the option of life? For smokers for instance, they have cigarettes, electronic cigarettes and not to mention nicotine patches.

So the question remains why can't we have an option for life? Especially when someone is terminally ill or someone suffering Alzheimer's disease? The suffering and pain people have to endure, when I saw my aunty, suffering this debilitating condition from a distance. I knew, as a child, it was unbearable to watch, let alone having this illness. A defining moment in our lives, where someone who was loving, caring, compassionate and her generosity was unimaginable. I couldn't believe a person like this, was touched by cancer. Cancer that swept my aunty into a cancer statistic, but into a dustpan. A dustpan, not worthy of this life time.

And this is not on, not on, at all Mr. O Donohue.

I believe the current system within the Victorian palliative isn't a designed model, to meet 2015 Victorian needs. Victorians who are suffering with cancer in pain and agony. The emotional battle, shaving hair, wearing a wig. Men or women, it is quite traumatizing. Cancer, Mr. O Donohue is holding them ransom. As Victorian government, Mr. O Donohue you have to be propelled to serve the greater needs of Victorians. We must not stay stagnate in our thinking. Wages are rising, petrol prices are rising. And while governments constantly dispute where we should allocated money. The allocation of money should reflect the values of every ordinary Victorians, Irrespective of ethnicity or socio-economic stance. Sometimes we need to be reflective, in order to deal with the current terrain.

There is a time in government, where we have to make many controversial decisions. And the legislation that can really define governments, that really sets us apart. So it can be a well-oiled, crank. If the crank is not well greased well, the bicycle won't serve its purpose. That is, to cycle. Right?

Who are we to say they can't end their life legally? You are in a position, which can adhere and make this legislation legal. At a time, in Australia where there is no real cure for cancer especially for the terminally ill. Victoria is at a standstill moment. What to do? I invite you, invite you Mr. O Donohue to be open minded.

Although, I agree that economics is important. Triple A rating too, set that aside momentarily. It is much more than economics. Having the right to choose, is integral especially government services. Refusing

or not being able to facilitate these services is a difficult situation. Bauer, Donna Bauer a Liberal MP. Who is suffering Bowel cancer, which ignited this course of action. And through the election, the Victorian state election she put a smile on her dial. Who had to conquer this terrible condition. Through tough times Donna Bauer, Mr. O Donohue made it. But she was supported by people who knew her the best! Still to this date, I don't know how she survived. Advanced economies have been sowed euthanasia within their legislation.

- ✓ In 1984, the Dutch Supreme Court declared euthanasia to be legal.  
*(In 1990, 9% of all deaths in the Netherlands were a result of physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia, with euthanasia accounting for the vast majority of those).*
- ✓ In 2002, Belgium legalised euthanasia.
- ✓ Physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia are legal and widely practiced in Colombia and the Netherlands.

#### **Having a right to choose becomes important.**

Whilst the Victorian government, have **amended a few and made new legislation**, I urge this to you, to ignite a conversation regarding life. This is where government's hearts and legislator's hearts will truly...collide. I demand clarity I really do and moreover to give the sick, the dying a voice. A voice where, they can be heard and not be punished for voicing their sensitive opinions.

**The ability to simplify means to eliminate the unnecessary so that the necessary may speak.**

**Hans Hoffman**

Why does Cancer, a disease that defeats and wreaks havoc in our internal organs? I don't expect this to be weaved within the bible. No. A government must be compassionate and understanding. A government who has the ability and agility to flex its muscle from time to time. Mike Baird, who not only secured the NSW election. But also strengthen a government body ICAC.

Premier Daniel Andrews is a stern Catholic, he to, sees the momentum that surrounds this controversial issue. I believe that this government needs to be in a position, to have to have unlimited resources (if that makes sense). Rather than a finite position and it is really hard. While relative scarcity, is only moments away you have to start planning from now, so you can *aviate* your way through.

That way if the government wants **to alter** anything you guys are in a strong position to make a smooth transition (Making headway for other services if needed).

While Premier Daniel Andrews, has a few issues regarding Euthanasia. Safeguards, and will and could it be abused? Accountability? Liability? If we truly want this to go ahead, apart from having the human resources, **you have to nail the law first (including loop holes)**. So that **eliminates** liability and any **future** payouts. Keep the team small, and then expand accordingly (adapt to the need or reduction).

**Implementation is key mixed with safe guards and of security. Of all types.** And apart from time, of course there will be a cost associated, this what it takes to **push governments for the inevitable.** I am not too sure if you could use, the census as a guide. For a little research, and a definite pharmacology. I think that is where you could source the answers you seek. Or perhaps Premier Daniel Andrews, if he has any other additional queries. *I'd assume.*

While State and Federal governments have their own government bodies, ICAC, IBAC and COAG (to name a few). Perhaps it should be treated no differently, and consent is a must of course. Set aside, religion. Personally, I just think it's the...emotional trauma and letting go. And while that is true, not everyone is on the level. That's the hardest part.

This is the challenge of change, great change. While the governments faces astronomical challenges, do you have a phalanx? I think it would potentially serve governments very well.

To get it right, it takes time and a lot of (tight lip) government planning. You know when Howard, John Howard may have had lost two elections. But you know what? He came back, winning three! That is a true story, Mr. O Donohue. What made and defined Mr. John Howard was tackling controversial issues and going into uncharted waters. He was the **envy of every great global nation.**

Gary Lew once said

**"...This is your world, change it or someone else will."**

While I am here typing, there is an online petition at [change.org](https://www.change.org). I am not sure if Premier Daniel Andrews knows about this, but it is a petition regarding car registration to make it every three months. I know car registration its and annual payment but there is also an every six months option too. That has been there before I was born. Just got to let VicRoads know. But is it possible to open that window? I mean at the end of the day, more options that's more money and possible new money. New money, better roads. Bigger budget for you to play around. And continued guaranteed revenue, which benefits all, you know.

I truly believe that Victoria is in a staunch position, a position to fuel change. Victoria is driven, compassionate and is **guided to transport** in delivering, government provisional services.

Yours Sincerely,

Sandra Isaacs