

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Ms Catherine Bond

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Those of us who have witnessed the painful death of a loved one, are now living in fear of the same fate when our turn comes. There is always talk of "palliative care", and drugs that can eliminate pain at the end of life, but I know that for the less privileged in our society, these options are not available, or the drugs given are inadequate to control pain. It is a myth to say that "no one in this age, and in this country, need suffer end-of-life pain." Maybe the wealthy members of our society have access to such care, but the majority of the community does not. And as the services for palliative care decrease with funding cuts, the future is frightening indeed.

Many of us will be thinking of ways to end our lives before we really want to, because of the fear of inadequate pain control at the end of our lives.

I do not believe that it is God's will that I suffer at the end of my life, and I do not want the religious views of others to determine the nature of my demise.

Time to make voluntary euthanasia legal, and also to allow doctors to intervene to end the suffering of those in pain at the end of their life.

Surely it is time to allow us to end our lives with dignity and peace., if we so choose.