

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Fear of pain and suffering is the reason many people feel drawn to favour euthanasia, however, the vast majority of requests are not because of pain, but as a result of severe depression, which can and should be treated.

The overwhelming majority of physical pain can be controlled with good palliative care.

In the Netherlands, where euthanasia is legal, it was initially available only for the terminally ill, now it's available for children from 16 years old without parental consent.

It's also available to those who have mental illness. In February 2010, Right to die Netherlands

launched its "Tired of living" campaign. Under the proposal, euthanasia would be extended to healthy people over the age of 70 who "consider that their lives are complete".

Can you see what happens? We open the door to an extension of who is eligible, using the argument of discrimination. If you allow it to 70 year olds, why not 68 year olds and so forth?

Your response may be "oh well that's only in the Netherlands, we would never do that here in Australia". Why not? Are Australian of such high moral standards that no one does anything wrong here?

You can never safely legalise killing anyone.

Also in the Netherlands, statistics show that over 30% of those euthanasied did not request it.

Sadly, we are experiencing a prolific growth in elder abuse within Australia, one would have to have one's head in the sand to not see how euthanasia can and does get used for sinister purposes in places where it has been made legal.

The vulnerable need to be treated with respect and dignity, not as a nuisance or as a strain on the economy.

Please vote NO against euthanasia.

Yours faithfully

Robyne Ferri