

Term of Reference

- (1) Assess the practices **currently being utilised** within the medical community to assist a person to exercise their preferences for the way they want to manage their end of life, including the role of palliative care;

End of life choices is viewed as a conversation Australians need to have. However most people don't even think about this issue unless they have had to support a loved one in their last days or care for someone who has a hopelessly ill condition.

I worked at the last NSW state election for VEP party and it was a real eye opener to see how many people showed such interest in end of life choices.

Unfortunately doctors can only offer patients the one legal, end of life choice of “**Palliative care**” therefore there is only one path to take so there is no choice.

I understand Voluntary Euthanasia Party (VEP) lobbies for law reform for medically assisted dying with stringent safeguards against abuse to allow doctors to legally assist, those terminally or hopelessly ill, a pain free, peaceful and dignified death through legal voluntary euthanasia.

This type of law reform would provide patients with an alternative to palliative care and expand their end of life choices. The fact that the choice would be available doesn't mean everyone would take it but knowing one has that choice gives patients the right to say when enough is enough.

So many are taking their own lives, stating they will not allow themselves to be placed into care or pleading with medical staff to assist. This issue is worldwide and needs to be discussed within the medical profession & families that are supporting loved ones as well as through both State & Federal government. Quality of life should be the deciding factor.

Julie Gilbody

[REDACTED]

Research material: [Mornings TV show video on voluntary euthanasia](#)/ [Christians supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia](#) /[Sydney morning herald](#)

(HPAD) <http://www.hpad.org.uk/>

“It’s the Patients life they should have the right to say when they have had enough - Please change the Law for all Australians Give them the choice”

Both my parents suffered needlessly at the end of their lives and I constantly hear how things have changed and there are systems in place to solve many ongoing issues associated with aged care.

However I recently went to a forum where there were 300 in attendance and it was quite clear that not much has changed over the years. There is a distinct lack of resources, training and experience and staffing levels to deal with palliative care patients. One RN stated his patient to nurse ratio at times is 1:110 how outrageous.

It was interesting that there was over 60 nursing staff attending this forum with the view to getting it out there that something has to change.

Everyone has their own perception of the system but from where I sit we need an overhaul of age care. There were questions at the forum how do we solve this problem but no one had the answer, other than to say it’s a conversation we have to have.

My experience.

Dad was on palliative care for 3 weeks with tears rolling down his face every day.

I moved into his room at the nursing home and slept there in a bucket chair for the entire 3 weeks. He was not being cared for adequately as the nursing staff were not experienced enough. He most certainly would have elected for assisted dying if it was offered to him. He had told the management 3 weeks before he had had enough.

My mother’s doctor placed her on palliative care and prescribed the appropriate medications. These medications were not followed up and it wasn’t until 4 days later I realised she was NOT being administered the medications ordered. She suffered on her own without any help. Assisted dying would have minimised that trauma for her in her last days.

Unfortunately many people have stories like these they are unable to tell because of the sheer stress they went through losing their loved one. Most people don’t have enough energy left to take on the system with the view to improving it for others so the system continues along ticking boxes to comply for accreditation. So many are locked into hopelessly ill conditions with nowhere to go but wait to die, with no quality of life.