

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Mr Allen Hokin

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

--

I joined the Voluntary Euthanasia Society - now Dying With Dignity Victoria - 40+ years ago and became one of the earliest first members of Exit International after it was established, so have had the long held belief of the importance of dying with dignity, as death is the one inevitability in life. I am a positive person and there has been no maudlin dimension to these beliefs. I have believed for much of my life that one of society's failings has been its inability to creatively and constructively address end of life issues and assist in planning for the inevitable. These thoughts go back to the many instances when, as an inner suburban cleric I was required to visit ex-parishioners in nursing homes where there would be a room full of zombies being spoon fed, dribbling, soiling themselves, oblivious of their surroundings, in what any sane person would regard as the most undignified circumstances imaginable and if the "patients" had been aware of their circumstances would have been ashamed and horrified at their condition. So I have believed for decades that euthanasia would have been a respectful and dignified end of life for these tragic, unknowing individuals.

Sadly, many of the caring relatives found it too depressing to face visits to their loved ones in such circumstances.

I have believed for much of my life that for someone who has the faculties, courage, knowledge and capacity to face it, that the responsible path is to plan one's end of life course and relieve family and relatives of that tragic burden.