

Victorian Parliament Euthanasia details 30.6.15.

While admiring Palliative Care and its immeasurable benefit to so many recipients who welcome this form of treatment, it must be recognised that it utilises a prolonged period of time which demands intense medical supervision and the issuing of strictly controlled medication, and it also involves a clinical staff who are invariably operating under strenuous circumstances.

Could not a more broad minded approach than that which currently exists be brought to bear on the situation of some individual patients, who would prefer an End-of-Life solution which would be beneficial to both patient and medical staff.

Many patients who are being given Palliative Care, if questioned closely would reveal in some instances that;

(a) In addition to varying phases of pain, they have also suffered personal indignities (incontinence) etc. well beyond that which they wish to endure during the current illness, and now want to be allowed to remove themselves from that aggravating world by the use of euthanasia.

(b) Some patients if given the choice would prefer Voluntary Euthanasia to the actual prolonging of their current circumstances which after considerable and extended deep thought they do not want to have to endure with Palliative Care.

In July 2007, I had this discussion of ending her life with my own wife during her illness when she did not want to enter Palliative Care after being diagnosed with inoperable Cancer of the Bladder; having suffered enough in her opinion and wanting to peacefully close down her life.

I still deeply regret having persuaded her to take the Palliative Care which ensued, delaying what was inevitably the expected finale. During the care, she suffered additional mental and physical distress despite the gallant efforts of the controlling staff, and was unable to correspond with her family for more than a week before she succumbed.

(c) Individuals whether suffering fatal illnesses or not should be given the availability of End-Of-Life decisions dependent upon their personal wish and circumstances. When one considers that the average individual of sound mind will not choose to cease living because of some seemingly irrelevant wish.

Being a nonagenarian plus (92), who has lived a long healthy life and is still very healthy and active, I do not wish to accept a lower standard of health, to partake in a prolonged life as an invalid. If this unfortunately does eventuate, it is my wish to have an End of Life opportunity available to me.

During the decades of my healthy life I have accomplished and experienced practically every wish I have conjectured, and having lost my beloved partner in 2007 after almost 65 years of married life and having endured close to an additional decade alone, why should I be denied my End-of-Life wish when I think the time is due.

I imagine the Government would not put an End-of-Life proposal as per the above suggestions to the population of Australia as a Referendum due to their prior knowledge that a resounding defeat of their antiquated ideas would be the outcome.

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