From: Committee Services Office
Sent: Friday, 3 July 2015 10:45 PM

To: LSIC

Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Ms Marilyn Rainier



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am 71 years of age and retired. During my lifetime I have witnessed the deaths of both close friends and family members. None of them died suddenly in their sleep, the supposed ideal death. My father-in-law. who was a paraplegic and had struggled enough, had his hands tied to the bed so he could not remove the very painful catheter that was inserted as part of his dying process. He thrashed around, crying out for help, for many hours before he died. The nursing staff and doctors said they could not intervene. One friend in particular begged me to help her 'escape' from the hospice where she was living as she was so terrified of the treatment being given to prolong her life. I have it on my conscience that I could do nothing to help her.

If I am told that I have a terminal illness I shall, if I am bodily able to do so, leave the country to die where I am able to purchase the necessary drug to do this. It will be very hard on my children, as one of them will have to travel to identify my body. They will then have to go through the red tape process of bringing me back to Australia to bury me. Obviously I would hate to put them through this but I believe I have no alternative as I do not intend to put myself through the sort of suffering I have witnessed over the years.

There is little or no risk to the person who is dying if two doctors and a psychologist are called in to interview the patient regarding intent. With so many baby boomers swelling the ranks in our hospitals, treatment of the aged cannot do anything but deteriorate and voluntary euthanasia under these carefully monitored circumstances is obviously the answer.

The law needs to change so that the dying can say goodbye in a dignified and gentle way to loved ones, leaving good memories. What my children may have to go through is barbaric but the present legal situation leaves me, and thousands like me, with no choice.

Please do all you can to bring about the necessary changes to the law. Thank you.

File1:
File2:
File3: