

6 July 2015

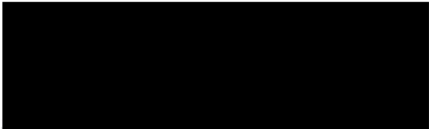
The Secretary,
The Legal and Social Issues Committee,
Parliament House,
Spring Street,
Melbourne, Vic. 3002.

Dear Secretary,

Re: Inquiry into End of Life Choices.

I enclose a submission to be considered in regard to the above inquiry and I thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Yours Sincerely,



(George Simpson)

Submission into the "Inquiry into End of Life Choices".
Conducted by: The Legal and Social Issues Committee.

Submission made by George Simpson, [REDACTED]

I am opposed to any changes to the current laws regarding Euthanasia. I can speak with some authority on this subject because of my recent medical history.

In January of this year I underwent an operation in which part of my bowel was removed. The operation was more complicated than expected and resulted in me having a large incision which required forty-two staples to close. On awakening from the operation I felt very ill and thought that I might die. I must have looked awful because I later found out that my family held out little hope for my survival.

In spite of this, I do not remember feeling any significant pain. I put this down to the miracles of modern medicine and the professional and devoted care I received from the medical and nursing staff at the Dandenong hospital. I am convinced, therefore, that it is entirely false to argue that Euthanasia is required to relieve pain and suffering.

I was eighty-two years and five months old when I had the operation and I am still recovering. I can say, without reservation, that I am glad to be still alive.

I am fortunate that I had the operation in Australia under our current laws. Had I undergone the same procedure in Belgium or Holland, where the so called safeguards are a joke, some budget driven administrator could well have decided that my life was not worth saving.

Euthanasia violates medical ethics as it contradicts the provisions of the Hippocratic Oath. Furthermore, were Euthanasia to be legalised, where would be the incentive to invest in palliative care?

The State invests quite heavily in suicide prevention. Encouraging the sick and elderly to suicide is a form of discrimination that runs contrary to this ideal.-p

Currently, there is much concern about the level of violence in the community. This violence, often leading to murder, occurs both on the streets and in the home. The Euthanasia mentality, which cheapens the value of human life, can only increase this problem. Any legislation that cheapens the value of human life gives tacit approval for such violence.

Signed: [REDACTED]

Date: 7 July 2015