

From: [Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form](#)
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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am now 68 years of age, and, thankfully, relatively fit and healthy. I am still in full-time employment and both my body and brain are working well. I am enjoying life, and have a good balance between work and leisure. I am well paid, and have a superannuation package that will probably secure me a poverty-free retirement. I live with my wife and two designer-dogs in a leafy inner-eastern suburb.

I am also acutely aware that this very comfortable lifestyle could change at the 'drop of a hat', so to speak. I could become seriously ill, or suffer a severe injury, either of which might leave me disabled, seriously immobile, or having to deal with chronic pain. My pension might also disappear, and poverty will quickly surround me. In short, my life may change from comfortable, exciting, and meaningful, to distressing, joyless and devoid of meaning. And, if the prognosis is for my condition to worsen, I will be questioning the whole the point of living.

I, like most other people, am not a masochist, and neither do I see the value in enduring pain and suffering in order to demonstrate my strength of will, mental toughness, or moral fortitude. I realistically understand that my life will end sometime during the next 25 years, and that my best years are unlikely to be those occurring after 2035.

I have been used to having a fair degree of control over my life, and want it to continue. I do not want someone else telling me how and when I should die. I certainly do not want the preamble to my death, and the timing of my death, being decided by some religious zealot, control freak, or someone who thinks they know what is best for me, and that I do not.

I believe that it is a basic human right to be able control the process of one's death. Thus, I reckon a piece of legislation that protects this right is essential. I do not care what it called, be it voluntary euthanasia, assisted suicide, or death support.

I also strongly believe that this right to die is not constrained by the 'terminal

illness' test. I would prefer the test be based on either of an additional three criteria:

The first is 'relentlessly insufferable pain', where the level of suffering is subjectively determined by the person doing the suffering instead of some pompously opinionated family member, or a pseudo-professional do-gooder.

The second is the loss of the 'will to live' , where again the judgement is made by the person whose will is being interrogated. In this case, which might, say only be valid for people over 85, someone who has nothing left in their emotional or spiritual fuel-tank should be able to die gracefully, with full medical and family support behind them.

The third is the loss of 'basic physical and cognitive capability'. This is trickier than the previous criteria, since the person with the 'loss' may be incapable of making the decision. In these situations the decision to assist the death can be activated by a legally enforceable documented-directive initiated by the person with the loss prior to the loss. And, what is more, this directive cannot be over-ridden by a family member, medical professional or clergyman.

So, there you have it: We desperately need legislation that empowers the individual to take control of their death, and take it out of the hands of those who have no right to manage the body or mind of another person, especially when their motives are shaped by their own personal and often bizarre views about what is right and proper when transitioning from life to death.

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File1:

File2:

File3: