

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Mr Allan Shorland

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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My father passed away in April 2014 at the age of 86 of natural causes.

For the last 6 years of his life he had no quality of life due to the physical toll on his body from a hard manual working life and workplace injuries and the on set of dementia.

He lived the last years of his life in a high level care aged peoples home, as my mother was not able to care for him.

He may have been alive, but he had no quality of life, and lived in a small room, unable to feed or wash or cloth himself or self medicate. He could not read, or operate a TV remote, stand or walk unassisted and spent almost his entire day/night in bed, generally asleep or staring at the wall.

Until the last few weeks of his life he could communicate reasonably well, and he made it clear to

me and my mother on numerous occasions in the last years of his life that he had no will to live, and could not see the point. He was just waiting for his time to end.

It broke his heart, and me and my mothers.

Our laws need to change to reflect the needs and wants of people like my father, so they can choose when to say goodbye and bring their useful life to an end, not be a burden on their loved ones, and keep their human dignity until they choose to depart this world.

I hope the law changes before I reach the point in my life that my father did, I do not wish to spend the last years of my life as he did.

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