

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LSIC](#)
Subject: Submission to the inquiry into end of life choices
Date: Friday, 17 July 2015 11:06:10 PM

Dear Legal and Social Issues Committee,

I am strongly opposed to legalising euthanasia or assisted suicide, both on practical and moral grounds. I therefore hope that the committee will see fit to rule out these options as legitimate end-of-life choices at an early stage of its inquiry.

To this end, I encourage the committee members to consider the experience of countries where euthanasia has been legal for some time, such as the Netherlands and Belgium. There the slippery slope has extended euthanasia even to children and those with mental disabilities. And in such cases, the decision to kill is, of course, made by others.

I also wish to stress that euthanasia and assisted suicide cannot be considered as 'medical options'. From the earliest times, medical professionals have defined themselves as healers, a calling which could not be more dissimilar to those who deliberately kill. The Hippocratic Oath makes this distinction very clear by forbidding doctors to 'give a deadly drug to anybody if asked for it, nor making a suggestion to this effect'. I therefore hope that the committee will not confuse euthanasia with the work of medicine, and if euthanasia is to be considered, it must be legislated for as a defence against homicide.

For the reasons mentioned above, I urge the committee to reject euthanasia and assisted suicide and instead restrict its inquiry to improving end-of-life choices by improving access to proper palliative care for all Victorians.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jennifer Williams

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