From: Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form

LSIC To:

Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Saturday, 18 July 2015 5:19:20 PM Date:

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Dr Margaret Graham



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

Medical options at the end of life include patient involvement in discussion about their aims for their final transition so that medical care can support their needs as fully as possible.

Medical options at the end of life do not include euthanasia or assisted suicide. These are not medical procedures. For medical people to participate in euthanasia/assisted suicide creates a conflict of interest and undermines the trust in the doctor patient relationship.

It is well known that patients in jurisdictions where euthanasia/assisted suicide have been legalised have been killed without their permission in order to free up hospital beds for others, people have been killed without their permission in order to relieve carer burden, and less able members of the community feel pressure to submit to being killed.

Adequate pain relief which has the side-effect of hastening death is not and has never been 'euthanasia' or 'assisted suicide'. It is a valid medical procedure. End of life planning and end of life care is important for all members of the community. Good quality medical care which includes wholistic psychological and spiritual care as well as quality pain relief is vital.

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File2:

File3: