New Submission to Inquiry into End of Life Choices
Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form
02/06/2015 01:21 PM
To:
lsic
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From: Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form
<cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>

To: lsic@parliament.vic.gov.au

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

End Of Life choices Carol Cronk
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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At the age of 62yrs of age, In 2008 and 2010, I was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, with also an evolving Frontotemporal type of early onset "dementia types."

Recently my diagnosis has been clarified as the vascular type. Also the past 18mths another Neurological disorder has evolved due to an area of the brain which is within the deeper part of my brain has caused a disorder called " Cervical Dystonia, a movement disorder of the neck and head. These disorders have no cure, and progressively will take me into "Dementia" and then death.

This diagnosis was and is an intense trauma for me,due to my journey with my father who had Alzheimer's/ Vascular dementia. those years I experienced with him until his final breath were traumatic and extremely overwhelmingly stressful. Those years till haunt me today after so many years. After my father finally died my sister and I we made a suicide pack, I think in Jest"? that IF we got such a disease we would do a "Thelma and Louise" suicide, from that movie.

I also stated that I would never re-visit a secured Dementia ward 'again". A disgusting invioroment of lost souls living in shells of a body, and their family's devastated.

Due to the dreadful experience my father endured in "Dementia care facilities," which were mostly due to the staff not being trained in expertise and in an understanding about "Dementia behaviours. Dementia people were treated as "mad" without any feelings or emotions, and specifically without any personal dignity.
Due to this "Nightmare" I endured with my dad and for him amidst his many tormented years in these type of facilities I joined with my husband the Alzheimer's National consumer advisory committee in Canberra. Our passion was to work towards changes within the "dementia care facilities regarding behaviour management training for staff working in this field, as this type of disease for nursing staff is how I have personally known and accept of the nursing staff to cope with, is one of the most stressful type of care in the medical profession. I believe. We also participated in the advisory committee more passionately regarding working towards government a government funding for researchers to finding a cure for this horrendous disease. However I had to resign last year due to my health issues. I also had my frustrations about the "end of life seminars that they held around Australia by the Alzheimer's organisation. the seminars educated people about establishing their end of life legal documents of their death wishes. These truly made me angry. All the legal styles of self suiciding which is how it is in hospitals regarding medical withdrawing life sources. All centered about HOW to die "naturally" to abide by the laws in our legal system. One of these options was for the restriction of any food or liquids to simply have to starve and dehydrate yourself to an end of life. Or allow Morphine to slowly end your life by causing you to drown by pneumonia. All these styles legally "acceptable" But for deplorable. There would not be one person in our universe that would allow their loved pet to endure such a lengthy cruel ending of their lives. I cannot understand how us humans have to endure such a disgusting cruel ending of our lives. I would like to end my story with just one thought. IF all those that appose people having terminal illness which ""dementia is," A progressive journey into it, which does give us the time to secure our end of life wishes. I would like them to visit the secured Dementia wing area" and visit those that have reached their final destination into a completed journey into the final stages of "dementia", where they sit/lay being fed, nappy changed and not able to speak, and their brains have ceased to function. And their families enduring this long traumatic RD where all they can do is make those decisions for them to withdraw all of their medical supports and watch them starve and dehydrate until they cease breathing. I passionately plead that my story of a personal experience will be of some benefit,From one who has and is enduring both parents, my father deceased and my mother now in her journey in a care facility enduring her journey with "again" us sisters into her "Dementia" final stages. And myself progressing in their footsteps. Thank you Carol Cronk.

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File1:

File2:

File3:

New Submission to Inquiry into End of Life Choices
Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form
02/06/2015 05:07 PM
To:
lsic
Hide Details
From: Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form
<cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>

To: lsic@parliament.vic.gov.au

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

End of life choices Carol Cronk
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I sent today an email today regarding my thoughts and beliefs about End of life choices. As I am already on my journey into "Dementia," happily slowly, and still in an early stage, I do have memory issues causing communication and loss of my verbal skills. I wanted to add to my submission, that I am of a Christian faith, and have absolutely no conviction about my beliefs about ending my life by Euthanasia. I have a wonderful Neurologist who I would desire, IF assisted medical Euthanasia was legalised? that when my time was nearing into the last stages of "Dementia" and perhaps lost my personal mental capacity to understand my earlier Euthanasia decision, then my husband and one of my children with him could instigate my ending of my life for me. My husband and my Neurologist would know when that time had arrived.
this would be the safety for this legal action to be provided. That I had made this decision during my time of being completely aware mentally of making such a decision. I and others would so desire to spare our families of having to endure the types of dying that are allowed by the medical fraternity right now. To be able to have my caring supportive Neurologist and my family around with me to be

able to share loving parting words together as I am Euthanized. Unlike in my last stage of "dementia" not functioning and dying in a disgusting manner for them to haunt their lives always as my own life has been by my fathers, also filled in guilt being so helpless to not be able to change his destiny. He actually escaped twice out of these institutions which we called them then back in the late 90's, and he was caught and returned back likened to a criminals capture. Now I am faced with my mother entering into her last stages of Dementia which "again" I am enduring with her, and "again" reminding me of my future following in their footsteps. The dread I and my husband endure is for me to become 'demented" and live out these horrendous "dementia behaviours," and my family of five children having to remember me as this dysfunctional human being, losing sight of the mother that once was overfilled in a positive personality, an extremely social personality . The care facility that my mother is in in WA, I have asked many staff members working in the Dementia area about their views on Euthanasia for these poor sad souls, I have had not one of these staff members disagree that Euthanasia should be given to them. Again" I apologise for my not so verbal expertise expressing my thoughts. However I once did write submissions and government reports in my employment, these recent years are slowly but absolutely taking me away from who I was, and I can no longer regain my lost brain functioning and my world is closing in smaller every day. Thank you Carol Cronk.

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File1:

File2:

File3:

Re-Medical Assisted Euthanasia
Carol Cronk
to:
lsic@parliament.vic.gov.au
19/06/2015 05:13 PM
Hide Details
From: Carol Cronk [redacted]

To: "lsic@parliament.vic.gov.au" <lsic@parliament.vic.gov.au>

2 Attachments

100_3850.JPG V__8E42(2) Daphne.jpg

To whom this May concern.

My name is Carol Cronk.
Our home address is in Casino NSW living in the Casino RV village.
However we travel back and forth to WA due to family in WA NSW and QLD.

I am writing my personal story of how, and why, I so intensely believe in Voluntary euthanasia.

In 2008 62yrs of age, I was diagnosed by a WA Neurologist with early signs of Alzheimer's/Frontotemporal dementia. I participated in an 18mth intensive drug trial towards research to find a cure drug. However it was not successful

After more scans and brain tests the past two years, my diagnosis became a progressive neurological terminal brain disease under a dementia type of " Cerebral Vascular Dementia, a diagnosis similar to my father's, which he also had, and his diagnosis was both types of Dementia Alzheimer's/ Vascular.

last year I began a head/neck movement disorder called " Cervical Dystonia", an area deep within the brain that has ceased its normal function which causes painful spasms. this area within the brain which has been damaged due to a lack of brain oxygen caused by "silent strokes " tiny seizure type strokes that you fall down but they don't leave any paralyse, just cell death within area's of the brain., The treatment for this disorder are procedures likened to Parkinson's disease, there is no cure but procedures to help with the spasms movements.

These procedures are needed every three months. Which involves where ever we are a trip to Brisbane as this Neurologist is a highly respected and most known in his expertise working with Parkinson disease and Dystonia's.

The dementia diagnosis was extremely devastating for me, due to my journey with my father enduring this horrendous disease until he died, The" Morphine palliative care" end of life medications was used to support his ending., which was a lengthy time of starvation and dehydrating until he took his last breath. My sister and I made a suicide pack (I think in jest) That IF we were to get this disease that we would do as the movie "Thelma and Louise," where two females escaped their destiny by driving over a cliff.

living like my father had to live in this Dementia world then dying by the "Morphine destroyer" which is acceptable to so many deceived minds, having to end a life in this manner is simply barbaric to me. my mother's little old dog was diagnosed with aged dementia, and was immediately lovingly put to sleep in her loving arms.

The "legal," Pallative care end of life procedures ends life" just slowly and cruely.

My father during his long journey with his terminal disease, having to live in secured Dementia areas, he lived a life which I can only relate as likened to a high risk criminal, locked away for life, his only crime a brain disease. All he had ahead was to slowly die from his Alzheimer's taking away every piece of his personal self worth, and left without any human dignity. He would have done anything to have been able not to endure his entire senior life in this way then his ending of it in the same way. My thoughts 17yrs later are still raw emotionally remembering his sad traumatic world, alive in his disease and how his ending of it had to end.

At this present time my mother is on her journey into her end of life. She is fully bedridden with a broken shoulder and two ribs and now on her spiral journey into last stages of her dementia " cardiovascular Dementia", some day's she is "lucid" and aware of her situation and her anxieties and dread of her environment and how she will die is intensely traumatic emotionally for her and us daughters.

Her most dreaded circumstance is having to use a nappy for her toilet, the only way to shower her is on a hoist naked and laying down on this hoist bed without any self dignity or any control about the event. "showers have now ceased due to her fragile and painful body, Also she feels disgust of having/needing to spoon fed.

MY mother for all her life has been a lady of with a strong independent personality and character, now reduced to such a disgusting type of living out her last given time in this manner, and no hope in her future of any change. I pray each night for a phone call to say my mother died in her sleep, to spare her of how her ending will need to be.

But her fate appears that her destiny will very soon arrive to require the Morphine combination (palliative care" medication ??? to end her painful suffering. These legal procedures are allowed to kill someone slowly, accepted by those blind folk who perhaps have not endured such experiences.

The Morphine combination used for the palliative end of life , firstly to cause drowsiness and pain relief then to support the starvation and dehydration which then causes a "natural death.? HOW can anyone agree with this procedure? and be "against" the terminally ill in their spiralling down journey into death be spared this type of ending. when they could have a loving environment with family around them and have their special DR give them a kind and caring ONE injection for a peaceful ending for the person and the family.

I would like all politicians that disagree with giving people the choice to end their lives, only when there is are no other options, I would like them to walk through the Dementia wards in the nursing homes and view these poor souls that have lost their brain capacity to speak out their needs just shells of people, who live in their beds or wheelchairs in nappies and being spoon fed,void of any level of quality of life. IF they had a loved one living in this way, perhaps they would consider a persons free will to choose not to live their last years in this extremely sad way.

I now have a journey ahead for myself, following in both my parents footsteps.

If there are no changes of these ridiculous legalities, My children with my husband all agree that they do want their mother to live out my last years in this way. Once my brain functioning is spiralling down to a state of me losing my mental capacity to function, MY husband and I will travel to "wherever? America Netherlands?" who do allow dying with dignity, to ensure my fate, will not be as my parents. I have chosen not only for myself but mostly for my five children and seven grandchildren, that they will not endure the emotional trauma of sharing in my last stages of this disease and remembering me in this way.

The grief for any parent is to have say goodbye to their children for at least six months prior to ending life in another Country, then being void of our children and families.

I plead my case out of my personal experience of both of my parents, and now my own personal journey. I added a picture of my mother towards those against allowing her to die in peace, may have a little empathy and re-think?

IF this was your aged and suffering mother, without any hope of any quality ever again, would they themselves not desire to give their parent a kind and loving peaceful transition. I am of a Christian faith and have absolutely no convictions about Dying with dignity medically assisted Euthanasia.

My apologies for my letter written without expertise and perhaps ramblings, but my brain functions are becoming less in what I can do now and what I have lost within myself from who I was in my past self, prior to this diagnosis.

thank you Carol Cronk.

13/11/2014

From: Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form <cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2015 11:42 AM
To: LSIC
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

end Of Life Choices Carol Cronk
[redacted]

[redacted]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Sorry I am confused. I do have brain issues. so I may have had success to send my stories before.?
Why I so want to see changes with"end of life choices" so intensely, is due to many friends dying so tragically leaving their families traumatized perhaps for always. My personal need's for it is sharing my father's horrendously sad ending of his life with Alzheimer;s/Vascular dementia. I myself following the past years in his footsteps diagnosed early, with two different type's of brain degenerative diseases. MY trauma is not only for myself but also for my husband five children to endure this slow disgusting journey with me. also my mother is now in a nursing home bed ridden in broken bones that cannot heal as she is 93yrs,in a nappy and spoon fed.and will never walk again with vascular dementia evolving. My granddaughter was born with a disability that took away all her physical and mental ability to function on any level, JUST respond happily to her father's touch. The family alone cared lovingly yet hopeless for her for 15yrs. Her world overwhelmed by tubes to feed her she never crawled /walked or talked. Her father never able to allow a ceasing of her medications to stop her from dying legally by the given Pneumonia he couldn't bear her to suffer any more in the type of legal death DRS offered him. to withdraw all the medical supports, then stand by and wait the time until she drowned in her own phlegm or starved to death. HOW cruel for the family to endure after hers and their lives consumed in her pain with their suffering. However IF one sedation had been an option I am certain the family would have gladly accepted that option. Then he could have held her in his arm during his loving presence to let her go out of her traumatic life and world. I will never forget his "gut wrenching" sobbing as he was given the news from the hospital that she had become infected by one of the tubes and was dying of that septicemia, He for the first ever had left her, to work in the NT just a couple of weeks. He began to drive frantically towards an airport to get back to her. Sadly he didn't make it.. He received the call at 3am by the side of the RD. His phone call to tell me I will hold within me for always I had never seen him cry he held always his daughters pain deep within, NOW here is my son in the bush sobbing and not knowing how he was able to drive to us in his state. IF a DRs assisted "euthanasia" had been accepted, he could have been with her during the many times he was with her believing that she would not survive an ordeal.
To be able to plan to "end Our lives" humanly for ourselves and for our families. takes all of our future emotions about dying "away" it allows us to plan ahead, then live our lives to our extreme knowing when

that time arrives when there is only trauma ahead, without any quality of life ahead. Then surely with some legality's around those personal life decisions should not even be a question/ or thought against it. God gave us our free wills... Mans deceived thinking has taken that free will away from us. Please re- think and think wisely for all those who choose to live out our lives as we desire to, and then have our choice when to end it, Humanly and kindly with a DRS assisted Euthanasia. We only want the same humane rights as all of our animal friends have. thank you Carol.

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File1:

File2:

File3: