

**From:** [Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form](#)  
**To:** [LSIC](#)  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into End of Life Choices  
**Date:** Monday, 20 July 2015 10:35:27 AM

---

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Professor William Adam  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

### **SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

--

I have worked as a nephrologist (kidney doctor) for 40 years and among my patients are those who choose not to commence dialysis, or those on dialysis who choose to cease: both decisions leading to an avoidable death. While palliative care has much to offer it does not provide a symptom free death, leading to patient distress. By choosing not to commence, or cease, dialysis these patients are choosing to die. I think they have a right to die as comfortably as possible, which includes the right to take medications that hasten death if they wish. I have experienced other situations (professionally and with family and friends) where an inevitable death from an untreatable illness has lead to prolonged suffering, not completely relieved by palliative care. Again I can not see why these people can not have the right to reduce the time with symptoms by having access to medications that allow them to die. I personally see no difference between these rights to die and the rights of women to choose to have an abortion. Both situations adequate safeguards to protect the patient from inappropriate pressures from others.

--

File1:

File2:

File3: