

From: [Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form](#)
To: [LSIC](#)
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into End of Life Choices
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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Mr Rohan Navaratne
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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21.07.2015
Legal and Social Affairs Committee,
Inquiry into End of Life Choices.

I, as an individual wish to make the following submission to the above inquiry.

The one glaring omission in the current environment of "End of Life Choices" is the fact that the wishes of the person concerned is not acted upon when those wishes are contrary to the law as it currently stands. This is untenable in a Secular, Liberal Democratic society. It should not be up to anyone else, be it a doctor, politician or religious official to dictate to a person as to what treatment, if any, he or she is willing to accept. That should be wholly the choice of the person concerned. This does not mean that a doctor should be forced to administer a procedure with which he or she is not in agreement with. In such a situation the patient (referred above as "person") should be allowed to avail themselves of a medical practitioner who is amenable to following the wishes of the patient.

With the above principle in mind I would urge the committee to recommend steps that enable "Dying With Dignity" legislation. Overseas jurisdictions that have enabled such legislation can be used as a guide to frame Victorian legislation.

The oft repeated opposition that such legislation allowing a terminally ill person to end their life with the help of a medical practitioner would lead to putting pressure on those who do not want to end their life in such a manner is simply not borne out in those jurisdictions where such legislation currently exists. This legislation is all about Choice. Where, currently, those of us who wish to end our lives if we find ourselves under intolerable circumstances are forced to endure against our will. This can and does lead to unconscionable inflicting of pain and suffering. This state of affairs is simply unacceptable. The choice should be available to a person of sound mind to nominate his or her end of life instructions and have those instructions respected if and when the relevant circumstances

eventuate.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours Sincerely,
Rohan Navaratne.

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File1:

File2:

File3: