

Hello, I am a member of the Bendigo Palliative Care Auxiliary. We raise funds to assist in the care of people going through their end of life journeys. They may go in and out for a short stay in Hospice for symptom management. I am also grateful that community palliative care services allows people to be supported to stay at home as long as they desire. What a great gift to give an individual and their families.

I would ask/ advocate that funds be allocated for improvements in effectiveness, availability of and access to palliative care: the most needed to give any credence to end of life "choices."

Improved care, not killing, should be offered to us when facing the end of our lives. Our Auxiliary is 25 years old this year- and our Hospice is not much older. Around Australia we so need far more Hospices and services to support palliative care patients stay home. With much more quality palliative care and support by excellent palliative care nurses, the things that lead people to be thinking of Euthanasia and assisted suicide would lessen

I am very uncomfortable with legislating Euthanasia & assisted suicides: I do not trust that the freedom to do so will be safe guarded against misuse. Safe guards can never be adequate to protect the vulnerable.

Euthanasia and assisted suicide are not palliative care.

Euthanasia and assisted suicide are against the codes of ethics of peak medical bodies.

Experience in countries where euthanasia and assisted suicide is legalised is that it opens the way to expand the categories of persons who can request it.

I write this letter as an individual, not in any other capacity.

My mum died in Hospice late last year and My family and I so valued the specialized palliative care given her. It astounds me that in 2015, not every community has access to quality specialized palliative care within their own community.

Regards Jenny Murphy