

From: [Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form](#)
To: [LSIC](#)
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into End of Life Choices
Date: Tuesday, 21 July 2015 6:00:31 PM

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Mr Chris Littlemore
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Dear Sir,

I have been responsible for an aged care facility in Balranald NSW between 2004-2013 and in Queensland in November 2013 watched my mother die following her deliberate choice not to take sustenance at age 85. Nine months after her carer, my father died and suffering a broken heart she chose starvation and ended her life.

I feel qualified to make a submission.

The care staff are fully aware of the benefits of palliative care and apply the same in a most caring and professional manner. Many people pass away with a little nudge, to the relief of their families. My mother was not one of them. She was of sound mind and fortunately the hostel respected her wishes. I remain angry that the incompetent doctor who initially agreed to ensure adequate pain relief had to be cajoled into action. If no-one had been present to represent my mother, she would have died in agony. Her dignity was stripped away in her last days as was the quality of the time I spent with her while I fought with the doctor for pain relief.

Do we really want the trauma inflicted on our police and ambulance staff, not to mention their families when people are forced to take their own lives with the blunt tools available?

It really is time to allow people the right to choose. Sure, put protection mechanisms in place before you can get approval, that's only sensible. I also believe you should place more weight on the responses of those who have some experience to back their opinion, not just rhetoric regurgitated.

I would much rather have held my mothers hand while she slipped away than to get a phone call to say she's finally at peace. Now I have none.

Thank you for considering my submission.