

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LSIC](#)
Subject: Legal euthanasia and assisted suicide will inflict terrible mental stress on the elderly
Date: Tuesday, 21 July 2015 9:16:51 PM

Please accept my submission to the inquiry into end of life choices.

I strongly oppose the legalisation of euthanasia and ask that you rule it out at an early stage from your consideration of legitimate end-of-life choices.

Even the availability of legal euthanasia will inflict terrible psychological pressure on elderly or severely ill people to prematurely end their lives when they would otherwise have no desire to do so. And this pressure will only increase if euthanasia were ever to become the dominant method for disposing of old people. In such a climate, effective palliative care would be scarce and much more expensive; increasing the pressure to submit to doctors' and relatives' wishes especially when there are fewer people of working age to bear the cost of medical care for the elderly as the population ages.

Experience where euthanasia has been legalized shows that there is no effective safeguard to prevent unwanted euthanasia. The true story of an old woman in Holland locking her door and barricading herself in when she saw that the doctor was coming to visit her sticks in my mind.

I therefore pray that the committee will use the opportunity presented by this inquiry to safeguard Victoria from these outcomes before the financial arguments begin to weigh more and more heavily upon the debate. I pray that you will recommend that euthanasia not be legalised.

Yours sincerely,

Mr John Rodda

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