

22 July 2015

To Whom It May Concern

RE: 'END OF LIFE CHOICES' SUBMISSION

I would like to express my grave concerns over the 'End of Life Choices' Bill.

The 'End of Life Choices' Bill will present an uncontrollable risk to vulnerable persons, namely the elderly, the disabled and those who are sick and unable to speak for themselves. Medicalised Killing has deliberately ended the lives of patients without consent and caused unbearable suffering to their families in other countries around the world, most especially in Belgium and the Netherlands.

This Bill will turn doctors into executioners, using the same drugs to kill patients that are used for inmates on death row. There can be no amount of restrictions which will not be abused, the 'choice' of the patient is an illusion and inevitably will result in providing doctors with eugenicist medical powers to decide whether or not the patient will be killed by lethal injection.

We should be researching better Healthcare for those who are nearing the end of their lives but this care should not be purposed towards hastening their death but rather providing them with maximum comfort and care in their final days. There is nothing 'medical' about killing a patient.

This road is a slippery slope. There have been cases where persons who were suffering from Anxiety or Depression ended their lives through Assisted-Suicide, deaths which could have been prevented with the right help – one such death was the 26 year old son of Judith Taylor, a Melbourne mother. She went through the heartbreak of searching for her missing son only to find out that he had been in contact with Exit International and had taken his life overseas using their methods. He had no terminal illnesses and no options provided to get help for sufferers of mental illness. His death was profit for their company who made money from his suicide. 'End of Life Choices' will lead to the glamorization of suicide and countless unnecessary deaths.

An elderly patient in the Netherlands, the grandfather of Henk Reitsema, was put on 'end of life care' after he asked for pain relief for a tooth-ache. He never asked to be killed and his family, who were very close, lost that extra time that they might have had with him.

Lastly, it presents a terrible and frightening risk to the citizens of our country who deserve our utmost care and protection – the disabled. My best friend is a born fighter – she lost her the top of her leg to her knee to cancer at the tender age of eight and she was the third person in Australia who successfully had the operation Van Ness Rotationplasty, using her foot as a 'knee'. When I met her, she walked so well on her prosthesis that I didn't even know she had one until one day at uni, she removed it and dropped it by her chair. In the future, she knows that she will not be able to use it anymore and she wants to live a full and happy life however she also is concerned that her rights will be overrun by this Bill.

Please consider that 'End of Life Choices' is far too dangerous, please research improving Health Care as an alternative to this Bill, to provide maximum comfort and support to patients who are gravely ill and suffering without a view to ending their lives.

Kind regards

Veronica Alp

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area on the right side of the letter.