

16.07.2015

Lilian Topic, Secretary
The Legal and Social Issues Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
Melbourne 3002.

To the Legal and Social Issues Committee,

It has come to my attention that an 'End of Life Choices' inquiry is to take place.

I wish to make a submission.

My thoughts and beliefs centre around palliative care and good nursing as the only moral and ethical way for people to come to the end of their life, not euthanasia or assisted suicide.

Deliberately acting to cause the death of a person is not a medical act. We do not need any legislative change allowing euthanasia. It opposes the right to life of everyone, especially the most vulnerable. No legislation has yet proved capable of protecting the weak and innocent, from newborn to the elderly. Some European countries are examples of this.

As a nurse, I witnessed the natural death of many people. There was never any suggestion of 'assisting' them to die, rather, every effort was made to help them cope both physically and mentally.

My wish is that palliative care be more easily available to all who need it.

Sheila Edgar