



15/07/2015

The Secretary,
Legal and Social Issues Committee,
Legislative Council,
Melbourne 3002.

Dear Secretary,

As an aged citizen, I want to see 'Physician Assisted Dying' or 'The End of Life Choices' available to terminally ill patients who have no hope of recovery and do not want to suffer any longer than possible. After having a good life, one wants a good death also. By this, I mean one that is dignified and pain free and to die when one feels the time is right and with my family by my side and not to suffer intolerable pain until the bitter end. **WE** should be able to control our own life end and nobody else.

It is heartbreaking for the family to watch as their loved ones suffer also.

In many overseas countries such as the Netherlands, 'Voluntary Euthanasia' or 'End of Life Choice' has been available for many years. It may not be the choice of everybody but those that want it should be able to avail themselves of it. Some people are happy to access Palliative care in their dying days and they have the right to do so and so would those that want 'Physician Assisted Dying' or 'End of Life Choices'.

I hope to see a Bill introduced in Parliament which has no loop holes that make it unworkable. It should have two or three doctors to certify that the patient is of sound mind when requesting medication to end their life in a pain free state.

In Australia as in overseas countries, polls taken on this matter indicate there are over 80% of those polled in favour. It is up to the Politicians to take note of what their constituents want and do their best for the majority. After all, they may be in the same situation later on in life and I am sure they wouldn't want to suffer a painful death which most are, even with palliative care.

With better medical care, people are living longer lives and it is a financial strain on any country so why keep patients alive when they are suffering and want to end their lives. Our country is already in need of more aged care and nursing homes with people having to wait in hospital until a bed is made available to go to one. Keeping the elderly in their own homes is another burden for the government even though it is cheaper than building more aged care and nursing facilities. I believe if you don't have reasonable health and with no hope of enjoying life, life is not worth living.

My sister suffered with Motor Neuron Disease and wanted to die as she had to be cared for the same as a new born baby and had no dignity when she finally died from the disease. She pleaded to die as she had no quality of life and knew she would not improve.

Sadly, she has now passed away and is at peace but not before she suffered terribly. There are many cases similar to hers in nursing homes and I wish Politicians would visit a high care nursing home and see how the elderly and incurable patients are suffering. Many do not want to be here.

In closing, I ask that the Politicians grant all those that want 'Physician Assisted Dying' or 'End of Life choices' their dying wish.

Yours Sincerely,
Joan Musumeci,

