

From: [John Tetteroo](#)
To: [LSIC](#)
Subject: End of Life Choice
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Dear Lilian Topic

I wish to put forward my objections to the introduction of euthanasia for the following reasons:

The palliative care medical fraternity believe that there is no person who need be in pain. Companionship and professional bedside manner are important in this area. More resources should be allocated into palliative care instead of enquiries just to appease certain groups who have no regard for human life and the natural ending of life. Palliative care has only been happening since World War II. The process has been defined over 60 years and gives people dignity in their final days. Palliative care invites the living to be part of the dying process.

Killing the patient is not medical treatment. Euthanasia is in conflict with basic ethical principles of medical practice and pro-assisted suicide or voluntary euthanasia lead doctors and nurses to change from carers to killers. This undermines the trust people have in the medical profession and health care generally.

Under voluntary euthanasia, there are many examples of people who are not terminal being killed when voluntary euthanasia becomes involuntary. Capital punishment was abolished in Australia because it was deemed barbaric and that there was always the possibility an innocent person might be executed. The same applies to euthanasia where people have been misdiagnosed with terminal illnesses when it was not the case. Imagine if that person was offered euthanasia or assisted suicide and took up that option instead of palliative care before that mistake was discovered.

Pain was reported to be the number 14 reason why people choose assisted suicide. The top reasons were depression, hopelessness, nothing to live for and loneliness (in other words, the vulnerable people). If more services were available for these vulnerable people and get them back into mainstream society, euthanasia would not be a consideration for them.

Yours Sincerely
John Tetteroo