From:

To: LSIC

Subject: Submission re Inquiry into "the need for laws in Victoria to allow citizens to make informed decisions

regarding their own end of life choices."

**Date:** Friday, 24 July 2015 9:08:40 PM

I support increasing resources for Palliative Care and oppose the legalisation of Euthanasia and/or Assisted Suicide.

All human life is precious. This issue effects some of the most vulnerable people in society, the law must protect these people in the absence of all other protections.

Illness is about much more than the biological state of a person a person is much more than a random joining of cells. The emotional state a person is very much changeable and decisions about this topic will be made by people based on their emotional state at that point in time. However, emotions do change even when circumstances have not and there is no coming back from death should they change their mind, it would also be extremely hard to come back from signing off to be killed - which is what it amounts to.

A large problem with legalising the above is that the infirmed person can discern rightly or wrongly from observing through hearing, seeing and sensing that the people they are reliant on to keep them alive want them dead, this could very much affect their will to live and it would be a horrible death to have signed off on dying because you think that no-one cares whether you live or die, dying believing that you are completely alone and completely unloved in the world.

Another issue is corruption. Due to financial and other pressures of a high-care environment, there are already decisions being made by the Government about the Health Care (is this now an oxi-moron) System. Then there are relatives who may be fatigued enough to want to end their own suffering and depression over the responsibility of a high-care person who may later regret their decision and later feel that, under duress, they made a mistake, a mistake they will not be able to fix as they will not be able to bring them back from the dead and will instead have to live with the guilt of such a decision.

All this is only the tip of the iceberg on this issue. Lets call it what it is - Murder, and in order to protect human life in all its facets, anybody attempting to end it should be punishable under law.

Yours sincerely Tracey Moynihan

