

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LSIC](#)
Subject: The Right to Die
Date: Friday, 24 July 2015 9:30:10 PM

I write to support legalising Voluntary Euthanasia and Medically Assisted Dying as an "end of life" choice in Victoria.

It is not only the possibility of pain, though that is bad enough when it cannot be relieved. What logic is there in forcing anyone to live when all hope of a normal life is gone?

What right has anyone else to demand that a terminally ill person must live in great pain and loss of dignity.

I witnessed my mother die in hospital. She was in great agony *despite medication* to relieve her pain. It is barbaric to force anyone to suffer as she did.

When we are suffering with no reasonable prospect of a cure, we should have the right to declare that we have had enough.

We should all have the choice of asking for help to die if we are terminally ill, especially if we are suffering. A doctor should be allowed to assist without fear of breaking the law.

Loss of control over our vital faculties and total dependence on others is a brutal condition to endure and to have loved ones witness. Nobody has the right to force this on another human being.

It should be normal to have the choice of a peaceful death. Voluntary Euthanasia should be regulated, openly discussed and easily accessed.

Kate Burnstein
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From: [REDACTED]
To: lsic@parliament.vic.gov.au
Subject: End of life Parliamentary Inquiry
Date: Friday, 28 August 2015 2:19:08 PM

To support my previous submission to the Inquiry, I submit my personal experience:

A few years after migrating to Australia, I received a call from my father in England. He told me to fly home to London ASAP because Mother was "sick".

I took work leave and went straight to the hospital on arrival. Mother was writhing in great pain and obviously dying. I was then told that she was waiting for me to come, to say goodbye. She had advanced cancer.

The following morning I was told that she had died and the nurses expected me to leave the hospital. I insisted on seeing my Mother who was then brought to the ward draped in immaculate, saintly attire in her coffin.

So much attention to the after-life while ignoring her needs along the way.

Kate Burnstein

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