

From: [Marie Newton](#)
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Subject: Submission to Parliamentary Committee on Dying with Dignity July 2015
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from: Marie Newton

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The fundamental principle is **that people who have a terminal disease should have the right to end their lives free of pain, in comfort, and at a time of their own choice.**

I support this contention. If I had a terminal disease, then I would wish to have a supported choice to end my life.

I am a survivor of breast cancer. Survival allowed me to see my children grow to adulthood, to become healthy, happy, integrated members of society.

They now have children. In biological terms, my life-task is complete.

I would not want to go through the treatments to survive aggressive cancer, a second time. I would want palliative care in my own home. I would also want to die there too.

The practical challenges of moving from palliative care, to actively engaging in dying, are many.

Humans have historically not had the choice.

Some of us can now...so why not?

Difficult areas include dementing processes, such as Alzheimer's Disease. While the Dementias are terminal clinically, the timing of dying is problematic.

I argue that people should have the right to make a legally binding decision to have their lives ended free of pain, and in comfort, at a time **when the terminal phase of the disease is diagnosed and**

independently confirmed, following instructions to a person holding an Advance Directive.