

From: [Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form](#)
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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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The beginning and the end of life are times of particular vulnerability. There are times where the rest of the community displays its humanity by caring for those who need our care.

Elder abuse is a huge and underreported concern in our community. This is a time when people need protection and the best care we can provide. It is a time when people can feel that they are a burden. So, rather than ensuring that they are living life to the fullest extent possible, many of those who are least able to protect themselves will feel pressure to make way for the next generation. It is interesting to note that the majority of those who are euthanised in the Netherlands are elderly females who don't want to be a burden. Cruelly, even in euthanasia there is a gender bias against women.

I run a community legal centre in south west Sydney. Solicitors who work in the practice regularly tell me of how those who are old and vulnerable are exploited for their money and subject to all kinds of abuse. One of our student volunteers recently told me that he went to with one of our solicitors to prepare the will of an elderly woman who was dying on the couch of her neighbour as her family had kicked her out of the family home. He was profoundly disturbed by this.

It is not true to say that this is just a matter of individual choice. The introduction of euthanasia will expose those who are least able to withstand pressure from being exposed to elder abuse and the risk of ending their lives unnecessarily.

Invest in the best palliative care we can provide. Invest in training health care professionals so that those who have a terminal condition may have the best life they are capable of.

Euthanasia will become an excuse for lazy medicine, dealing in death as it becomes commoditised and elder abuse on a scale we have not seen. Celebrate human life in all its diversity and at all stages of life.

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File1:

File2:

File3: