

To the Victorian Parliament Inquiry on End of Life Choices.

My wife died from advanced metastatic bowel cancer in a private Sydney hospital in 2010. For the last few days of her life she was in agony. She did not deserve such an end, nor does anyone else. Despite my wife's pleas, my pleas, and those of our adult children, administration of morphine was strictly regulated in both frequency and concentration by senior ward staff and could not be increased, we were told, "for ethical and legal reasons". When I asked "whose ethics?" I received no coherent reply.

Being powerless to help my partner and friend of 53 years when she was most in need, has left me (uncharacteristically), angry and embittered. I owe it to my wife to make any representation I can to help change laws to save others from similar dreadful last days of suffering. Although members of my family and I have taken all available legal steps to die as we choose, huge gaps remain.

Most of the electorate clearly want change; certain legislative power-groups do not. The latter will eventually be over-ruled but before then, many people will suffer a painful death because they are not allowed to die in the way they choose.

I trust this email will reach and be heeded by the Inquiry. It is not a rote letter but rather a personal cry from the head and heart.

Edward S. Robinson