

Martin Luther King was 39 when he made his moving speech 'I had a dream...' We all remember it, how can we not? It was about '**Freedom**', all men being born equal and so forth. The debate about 'Voluntary Euthanasia' is no different. It too is about **freedom**, just another kind. This particular kind of freedom applies to every single person living on our planet regardless of colour or creed. It is the right to choose how and when we end our lives as opposed to being dictated on what we are allowed to do to achieve this outcome.

It took me 34 years before I understood this very basic right. I was in my early 30's when struck down with a virus that attacked my heart. Bed ridden for five years, I eventually recovered but was never the same. Every day is difficult for me, but I personally have no wish to die. However, it has opened my eyes and allowed me to understand the desperation of people trapped in bodies that no longer work and who suffer unrelenting pain in their every waking hour.

80% of the Australian population have said 'Voluntary Euthanasia' is what they want. Is it not the job of the Government to do what the people request in order to improve their lives? If this is the case, then how is it we are still stuck in the dark ages allowing terminally ill patients to die a slow, prolonged painful fearful death when the technology and medication of our time allows for a peaceful demise from this earthly existence?

Who are these people who have the audacity to tell someone how they must end their life? Are they re-incarnated slave owners still convinced they own a person like a piece of property that gives them license to decide how, when and where they will die? Or are they Members of Parliament hell bent on advancing their own careers? Members who shy away from voting to legalise Voluntary Euthanasia lest it affect their careers adversely?

If this is the case, then Members of Parliament have got it wrong. Given that 80% of the population in Australia would like to see Voluntary Euthanasia legalised under carefully monitored situations and in restricted circumstances, their bid for **political popularity** can only **increase** should they vote in favour of legalised Voluntary Euthanasia. 80% of the population must surely cover a wide variety of colour and creed.

We, the voters who want freedom to make end of life choices also have a dream. That dream is to legalise Voluntary Euthanasia and show the world we aren't a backward little country stashed somewhere 'down under', but a country that has intelligent leaders who have compassion and understanding for their people.

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