

From: [Creativity](#)
To: [LSIC](#)
Subject: Enquiry into end of life choices.
Date: Sunday, 26 July 2015 1:45:48 PM

Ms Lilian Topic,
Secretary,
Legal & Social Issues Committee
Parliament House,
Spring Street,
Melbourne VIC 3002

I would like to add support for the freedom for us to make our own end of life choices – known as voluntary euthanasia.

Both my wife and I desire this choice, which is included in our 'advance directives' and in instructions to our General Practitioners, and our children. Our GPs know that if we are seriously ill in hospital, they are to ensure our 'end of bed' instructions state "do not resuscitate".

To us quality of life is more important than life itself.

We desire this knowing that when the law is changed to allow these choices, it would not oblige others with different sets of values, to make the same choices. We do this based on my study of the Northern Territory legislation – subsequently overwritten by Federal Parliament – which had adequate safeguards to ensure that the end of life choice was properly made, with minimum external pressures, such as is feared to come from family members.

We do not feel it necessary to protect those medical practitioners who for whatever reason won't do what their patients ask in this matter. Apart from any religious excuse the Hippocratic Oath in principle requires them to do what is in the best interests of their patients – and a comfortable death is for many the choice.

Thank you for this opportunity.

David Synnott

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