

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LSIC](#)  
**Subject:** End of life options  
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People,

I understand you're looking for submissions regarding

- How current medical practices and palliative care can assist a person manage their end of life
- How this issue is managed in other Australian and international jurisdictions
- Potential changes to our legislative framework.

I'm currently a healthy man of 64 living in Queensland. One day, I'll be dying.

### **Current medical practices and palliative care**

I understand current medical practices do not support a patient's right to end their life at a time of the own – competent – choosing. I understand if I get cancer or something that's painful and incurable I must allow other people to make decisions for me. Further, I understand the different people involved will refer to different decision algorithms, depending on their individual employers, professions, legal jurisdictions and legal requirements as well as their own different personal values.

I've been trying to find out whether I'm allowed pain mitigation if I choose not to have invasive or debilitating procedures that may be offered to me. I haven't got to an end of this one. Currently, I believe if I don't choose invasive or debilitating procedures offered, I'm sent home to fend for myself however painful that might be. I understand I can only get pain relief if I'm institutionalised.

Earlier this year I put my 17-year-old dog to sleep. His quality of life had been continuing to decline. I held him in my arms while the vet gave him a needle. He didn't know what was happening and he died painlessly.

Our community allows this for dogs but not for humans.

### **Other jurisdictions**

In Switzerland if you have incurable conditions and you elect to end your own life there's a place that assists you. I've seen it on a documentary by Terry Pratchett, author of the discworld series of novels. I understand, too, that if I have the funds and physical capability to travel to Switzerland I can use these facilities in certain circumstances.

I understand other European countries including Netherlands and Belgium provide

similar facilities but only to their own nationals.

## **Potential changes to our legislative framework**

I believe I have a right to end my life at a time of my own competent choosing. I believe I must respect the beliefs of others that differ from mine. I do not believe anyone else has the right to inflict their own beliefs on me. Rather, I believe that others who hold beliefs that are different from my own behave selfishly and unethically when they work to ensure their own personal beliefs are enshrined in legislation while mine are not.

Currently, if I help someone I love who is mentally competent end their own life, I will be jailed and prosecuted. This has happened in Australia several times recently. For example, an old man who helped his sick wife die was going to be prosecuted but he killed himself first. What a horrible indictment of our legal system.

Specifically, I'm aware of numerous utterances by people of a host of different religious persuasions that I have no right to decide for myself when I die. Rather, they all think that their own – different – gods should somehow make this choice for me. Logical rubbish when you contemplate all the different gods these different organisations think about.

Quite simply, I have a right to make my own end of life decisions and our legislative framework should respect and allow this right. It's time the belief that all the different gods can decide amongst themselves when I die is erased from our legislative framework.

Further, it's time that helping someone I love die painlessly in my arms if that is their choice is also allowed by our legislative framework. And that I should die painlessly in the arms of someone I love if that is my own choice and theirs.

What we currently enable for our dogs we should enable for ourselves.

Thank you, reader, for your time.

Graham Redding

