

**From:** [Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form](#)  
**To:** [LSIC](#)  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into End of Life Choices  
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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Ms Marisa Monagle  
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## **SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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I am writing to the committee on end of life choices for three reasons. First I am a registered nurse of 35 years who has cared for patients who were dying both adults and children. As a registered nurse I feel it is well and truly time that there was a conversation on voluntary euthanasia. By this I mean where a person who is cognitively able to can decide that it is time to end their life due to unrelenting uncontrolled pain and suffering for example pain caused by terminal cancer or progressive paralysing disorders such as multiple sclerosis. As a registered nurse I have bared witness to extreme suffering that was not controlled by pain and symptom management. One that particularly sticks in my mind is a woman who bled to death from every orifice yes every orifice in her body and prior to this had been in extreme unrelenting pain. It was horrific and the only saving grace was that her family didn't make it in to see her die this way. here are many stories I could tell as I have nursed patients dying of cancer, HIV Aids to name a couple.

One thing that sticks out for me is how difficult it can be for Medical doctors to let go and accept that their patients are terminal. Perhaps better training in this area might lead to quicker referral into palliative care services which in turn will let to a better quality of life.

Regardless there will still be people who no matter how much pain and symptom relief they get it will not lead to a peaceful death. Therefor I believe that everyone should have the right to make clear end of life choices and should that be euthanasia then that right should be respected and allowed.

Other people's religion should play no part in this decision at all if people don't want to be euthanised then they don't have to be.

There is clearly plenty of research evidence that shows that euthanasia can occur in a safe and legal way we only have to look to Countries that already allow it to see this. The scare tactics that people who are against use are just that scare tactics I am not suggesting anyone can end their elderly parents life for example just to get rid of them I am talking about proper ethical decisions being made by consenting adults.

Second, as a person who has cared for friend and family who have died from terminal diseases one in particular sticks out. As a nurse we are bound legally to

not perform euthanasia but when you are able to give pain relief prn ( as necessary) which is often an order for a terminally ill patient is that not already a form of uncontrolled euthanasia??? I would argue yes as someone who has done it and someone who has watched it done to their brother in law. This is not good palliative care the reason why is that more often than not the person who is dying and their family are not consulted and is left bombed out semi conscious due to large doses of morphine etc. I watched this happen to my brother in law and seeing it from the other side it horrified me that this was the only choice that was available that was legal. It was horrific to be on the the other side - heartbreaking. He may not have wanted to be euthanised but he was never given the option but in a way he was euthanised through drug over dose??? I respect the nurses that did it at one level as their hands are tied behind their backs but don't feel it is the way to go.

Third, I am concerned and i know with out going into detail that euthanasia is occurring in unregulated ways and while i am not judging those who are involved in doing this it worries me greatly. It needs to be regulated and in an ethical and caring way that respects the person who is dying and their relatives.

I am also concerned that other types of euthanasia are going on unregulated once again I can not go into details as i do not wish to incriminate those involved including myself as a student nurse. But I will say this has come back to haunt me in the later part of my career.

Thank you for accepting my submission I welcome the opportunity to be able to contribute.

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File1:

File2:

File3: