

## Submission on the Adequacy of Victorian Laws in Meeting People's Expectations Regarding Options Availability at the End of Their Life

To:-

Legal & Social Issues Committee  
Parliament House  
Spring Street  
Melbourne Vic. 3002

From:-

Stanislaw Pelczynski

In my opinion the current Victorian laws are inadequate in meeting people's expectations regarding the availability of options at the end of their life and therefore need to be amended so as to make the option voluntary euthanasia legally available as it is now available in Holland and Switzerland.

As a child I have experienced the horrors of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and witnessed people's suffering and death. I have also witnessed my mother's and sister's sufferings during their last days of their life. I am also familiar with my friend's experiences in their final years and with current laws' limitations on people's expectations regarding the medical options available to them at the end of their life, which, in my case, has limited the options I would have otherwise chosen in my living will and advanced care directive.

From the time of my late teens, I have been fully convinced that I and only I have the right to determine when and how I die and that this right should be protected by law. As a result I have been campaigning against capital punishment and war.

I have also undergone number of operations and medical tests involving full anaesthesia which made me realize that a death by overdose, or similar to it, is the most humane and therefore the most preferable type of death for me.

At present suicide is legal, but voluntary euthanasia is not. This violation of my right to die with dignity leaves me with no other option of avoiding the type of unacceptable to me end of my life than that of committing suicide at a time when I will be still physically and mentally capable to do so by one of the only inhumane methods that are still legally available since obtaining Nembutal, the most humane method, has been made illegal.

Therefore I submit that the Committee recommends that the law be amended to make voluntary euthanasia legal, preferably modelled on the one that exists in Holland or at least on the one proposed by Dr. Rodney Syme from Dying with Dignity Vic. Inc.

Stanislaw Pelczynski,  
28<sup>th</sup> July 2015.