

From: Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form
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Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Ms Erin McMahon
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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In 2008 my father was 70 years old and suffering from Parkinsons and Dementia. After 10 short weeks in a nursing home they had decided to stop feeding him and stop giving him his medication.

Five days later he was in bed groaning in agony. I held his hand and he squeezed it, he was conscious and aware of everything that was happening around him. I became distressed and asked why they were all standing around, couldn't they give him something. The nurses said he'd had morphine but they couldn't give him any more. He began to shake and make unearthly noises.

No one mentioned that he was near to death. I was shocked when they inferred that this extraordinary situation could go on indefinitely. We all left with plans to come back but he died an hour later on his own in agony and distress. Nurses unemotionally looking on, unable to help any further.

The simple act of increasing his morphine in the days beforehand would have saved him this agonising and undignified end to his life.

My Dad had always said "When I go, I want to go out with a bang!" Unfortunately for him, his death was cruel, agonising and pitiful.

To this day I can't believe that starving our family to death is legal and I won't accept that it's moral.

If you haven't had this experience you could never imagine the matter-of-fact cruelty of these deaths every day in Victoria. It's a cliché but true - you wouldn't treat your dog like this.

I hope for my mother, myself and my children that this inquiry can make real and lasting changes that guarantee every one of us death with dignity.

Kind regards

ERIN McMAHON

On behalf of my Dad-Laurence Vincent McMahon (dec)

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File1:

File2:

File3: