

From: Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form
 <cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>
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To: LSIC
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into End of Life Choices
Attachments: 55b81c848681f-dying with dignity.docx

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Ms Suzanne Jensen
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Ms Suzanne Jensen
 28/7/2015.

I am willing, able and happy to appear at any public hearing.

I wish to respond to the "Dying with dignity" currently before the parliament.

I am a 58 year old married mother of 2 sons. In 2009 I was diagnosed with oesophageal cancer. I underwent major surgery, chemotherapy and around 3 years of rehabilitation.

I have recently been diagnosed with and commenced treatment for lung cancer. The treatment is onerous but I am dealing with this new circumstance with physical, emotional and spiritual optimism. I am also receiving support and strength from my wonderful family and also within the workplace.

While I am not focussing on what might be, when and if the time comes, I want to be able to determine my own exit with some degree of grace and dignity. An exit that will be peaceful and on my terms with the support and assistance of my family.

I find it perplexing that I can make an informed, compassionate decision to lawfully choose to end another life by having an abortion, by refusing lifesaving medical treatment for either myself or a family member or turning off medical equipment that is sustaining an unsustainable life and yet I am considered to be unable to make the same informed decision about my own life choices. I can also be prosecuted for allowing a dying animal to suffer.

Any suffering due to a serious illness or injury is not only the domain of the person themselves. Their family and friends suffer as they are unable to provide physical assistance to help and it is quite distressing for supporters and carers to see ongoing suffering in somebody they love and care about.

Australia is a country with some of the best doctors, nurses, hospitals and other associated care and to suggest that they would act inappropriately or not well informed about a person's decision to die with dignity at the time they choose, is misleading, ill-informed and just plain insulting.

I wonder how many of these people who continually oppose dying with dignity have actually been involved with a person who is suffering. Do they offer their services in a voluntary capacity to palliative care

facilities to make a cup of tea or hold the hand of distressed family members awaiting the passing of their loved one? Or do they just constantly bleat and picket about how wrong dying with dignity is and then go home at the end of the day without having to deal with this difficult situation.

There has been much debate about this issue over many years and several other countries have legalised euthanasia. An investigation into the requirements to undertake euthanasia is quite onerous and clearly the countries who have taken the brave step to legalise euthanasia have ensured that the attending physicians are under no illusions that euthanasia is an appropriate and considered process for the person involved and their family.

It is time that Victorians are able to have the same determination about their own fate.

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File1: [55b81c848681f-dying with dignity.docx](#)

File2:

File3: