

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

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Ms Jennifer Citroen

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Jenny Citroen Submission to End of Life Inquiry 2015

My mother is 90. She has essential thrombocytosis, multiple micro and wedge fractures of her spine due to osteoporosis, is anorexic and has chronic constipation.

She is ready to die; in fact she wants to die. As far as she is concerned every day is a trial and life is no longer worth living even though she loves her children and grandchildren dearly. She has said her goodbyes to extended family and friends. Now her last wish is that she die at home, without pain with family around her - a loving, peaceful and dignified passing.

However because of Australia's legislation her only choice is to slowly and painfully waste away or consciously choose to stop eating.

This is cruel and inhumane.

It is painfully ironic that if my mother had stayed in her birth country, The Netherlands, she would have been able to choose euthanasia.

'Under Dutch law, any action intended to terminate life is in principle a criminal offence. The only exemption from criminal liability is where a patient is experiencing unbearable suffering with no prospect of improvement and the attending physician fulfils the statutory due care criteria.'

'In accordance with the due care criteria the physician must, among other things, be satisfied that the patient's request for euthanasia is voluntary and well-considered and that his [her] suffering is unbearable with no prospect of improvement. Euthanasia can be performed only at the patient's own request, not at the request of relatives or friends.'

(http://www.government.nl/issues/euthanasia?utm_campaign=sea-t-government-a-euthanasia&pk_kwd=%2Beuthanasia%20%2Bnetherlands&gclid=Cj0KEQjw58ytBRDMg-HVn4LuqasBEiQAHPkhusu2UXUxlpEcyA9pVcge2V1UXvoQMjDUEK1ukBphYfAaAr8A8P8HAQ)

My mother has long held the view that voluntary euthanasia was her preferred end of life option and has discussed this openly, a number of times with her GP over their 25 year history. She has no prospect of improvement, in fact every time we lift her or she has a shower there is always the prospect of breaking another rib or worse creating another wedge fracture in her spine. She has told me she would have committed suicide by now had she the courage and the knowledge needed to produce a dignified death and

not been worried about the mess she would leave behind for us to clean up.

Please begin the process to change the legislation required to enable euthanasia.

There are now a number of countries (The Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxemburg and Canada, even some states in America) whose legislative framework and experience over the last 50years would give Australia a broad basis to create a comprehensive humane end of life legislation.

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File1:

File2:

File3: