

**From:** Doris Hart [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 July 2015 2:12 PM  
**To:** LSIC  
**Subject:** Submission - Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Lilian Topic  
Secretary  
Legal & Social Issues Committee  
Parliament House  
Spring Street, Melbourne VIC 3002

Dear Ms Topic

### **Submission – Inquiry into End of Life Choices**

Today the strongest opposition to medical assistance for the dying comes from the church on the grounds that life is God-given and not ours to end.

My education began in a church school where religious instruction was basic to everything. God created the world. Life and death were one. Birth was the gateway to life, death the gateway to eternal life. Man could hope to live for three score year and ten. When the body could no longer function, either from sickness or old age, death would set our immortal soul free to return home to God. This simple faith sustained us.

That was a long time ago - over 80 years in fact. Much has changed - in the church little is said these days of the role and function of death in the great scheme of things. Yet death is a sacrament of the church, celebrating the return of the soul to God. This renders inexplicable the church's implacable insistence on requiring people to endure unbearable suffering at a time when death is already imminent. The choice is not between life and death but between death in agony and death in peace.

I request that the Committee take this into consideration in its deliberations and urge the Committee to recommend that dying people should have the right to medical assistance to hasten death.

Yours sincerely

Doris Hart  
[REDACTED]