

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Mr David Miller

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Whatever is debated regarding end-of-life issues, euthanasia and assisted suicide should not be considered options for end-of-life management.

There are often a number of specious arguments put forward in favour of these practices. While such arguments sound reasonable, they are fundamentally flawed in principle. Because euthanasia and assisted suicide usurp the role of God in deciding who should live, and who should die and when, they inevitably lead to a devaluing of human life, and a downward spiral of abuse, making it easier and easier to terminate human life. This is exactly what is now happening in countries such as Belgium and Holland, that have embraced euthanasia. I would urge Victoria to learn from their mistakes and not start down that road.

The irony is that with modern pain killing drugs and other medications, today's world has less reason than ever to consider such practices.

Good palliative care is the most effective and most humane option for the management of terminal illness and other end-of-life situations, and the best for society as well.

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