
From: Julia Manickam [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2015 12:57 PM
To: LSIC
Subject: Reference: Inquiry into End of Life Choices.

Dear Ms Topic,

I am writing to express my strongest objection to the prospect of the Victorian Government changing legislation that may legalise Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide. I furthermore stress that Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide are not "medical choices". As health worker myself I am extremely concerned as to how any changes may affect the most vulnerable, particularly those with mental illness that may or may NOT be diagnosed.

As a Victorian citizen I would like to insist that the Victorian Government has absolutely no mandate to change these laws and instead should be focussing on increasing access and funding to better palliative care options to those in need of them and better mental healthcare.

In addition, given the almost absolute abhorrence our society has for state sanctioned killing, there is absolutely no reason that our tax payer dollars should be used in this manner, to kill those who may be at their most vulnerable time.

We have a duty of care to protect and help those citizens who are in need and we as a state should be more concerned with providing these services than allowing them to be killed. Moreover, the notion that only lucid people will take up this option is unfounded and the industry of death is prone to people being coerced into situations they don't wish to be in. In those countries and states where the law allows Euthanasia, there are already cases where vulnerable people have been killed in circumstances that are very murky.

Indeed in Australia, the only extensive inquiry into the option of changing Euthanasia laws concluded backed this up in their findings noting that "**Anecdotal evidence presented to the Committee identified a need for patients' rights to be affirmed. The Committee found that in some cases patients had difficulty ensuring that their wishes would be respected in regard to their medical treatment when they became incompetent.**" And "**The Committee found that the codification of voluntary euthanasia legislation could not adequately provide the necessary safeguards against abuse.**" (refer: http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/old_ctees/reports/Voluntary%20Euthanasia.pdf)

The weight of evidence is surely against the concept that the state can control the use of Euthanasia and it is for this reason as well as those I have previously stated that I wish to submit my objections to changing the legislative framework surrounding Euthanasia and ensure that the medical fraternity can continue to abide by their commitments to treat those patients in need and allow access to the best care possible, including if the need arises, mental health care.

Yours sincerely,
Julia Manickam

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[REDACTED]