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From: Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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As a medical practioner of over 40 years experience, I have never encountered a patient whose terminal illness could not be controlled by palliative measures. Furthermore, a doctor's focus must be on healing (if possible), or control of symptoms, but never killing or facilitating suicide.

Euthanasia overseas is often involuntary, as in Belgium, where disabled children may be euthanased at the behest of weary parents. There are many other instances of involuntary euthanasia of adults or legally incompetent people. The 'slippery slope' is very real.

In the event of 'voluntary' euthanasia being legalised, there is also an unwelcome climate of 'a duty to die' upon those sick and elderly patients who perceive themselves to be a burden to their relatives. There are in my experience, avaricious relatives who exert undue influence on the patient and also the patient's doctor to end life.

Why should medical ethics be corrupted despite the Hippocratic Oath serving civilizations well for millenia.

Yours faithfully,

David M Gawler MB BS FRACS FRCS (Eng) FRCPS (Glas) FICS

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