
From: Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form
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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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From the fact that this Inquiry was instituted as a consequence of yet another Greens push to legalise euthanasia, there can be little doubt that this will form the substance of the Inquiry, despite its innocent-sounding title. My submission therefore will concentrate solely on this issue.

Now euthanasia involves -- to put it bluntly -- the killing of a patient, in theory with his/her consent. Because it normally requires medication, the expectation is that qualified medical practitioners will do the dirty work. So I would here remind the Inquiry that a doctor's job is to treat patients' illnesses and, where possible, to preserve human life, not to destroy it.

Once doctors get involved in destroying lives -- no matter how idealistic the reasons may seem to be -- patients' trust in the medical profession must inevitably be forfeited.

Another point: there is much justifiable concern about the suicide rate, particularly in the young. What then is a prospective suicide attempter to make of a law that actually encourages suicide with medical help?

There are many more arguments against euthanasia. The Dutch experience is a prime example: despite numerous safeguards being put in place when euthanasia was first legalised, thousands are now killed at the hands of the medical profession without their consent, and newborn children are killed without fear of the law if born with a serious birth defect.

For the above reasons and many others no doubt discussed in other submissions, I most strongly urge the Inquiry not to advocate the legalising of euthanasia.

David P Ollerenshaw (retired medical practitioner)