



To: lsic@parliament.vic.gov.au
 Salutation: Dear End of Life Choices Inquiry.

Subject: My submission to the enquiry.
 Body: Please allow me to share with you my concerns about legalizing euthanasia in Victoria.

I believe that allowing legal euthanasia would be to repudiate the government's responsibility for protecting the lives of frail and vulnerable Victorians. Evidence from overseas shows that euthanasia laws are always initially billed as providing sufficient safeguards to protect against abuse, but in practice, and over time, these safeguards have always proven inadequate. In Holland, for example the Remmelink Report, an official Dutch government survey of euthanasia practices, found that more than one thousand patients are involuntarily euthanized each year. And in Belgium, a study published in the Canadian Medical School Journal showed almost half of all nurses admitted to killing patients without their consent.

It is naïve to think that with Victoria's rapidly aging population and soaring health care costs that euthanasia could be contained if ever it was first allowed. It is worth considering that a euthanasia kit costs only tens of dollars, whereas proper medical care of an elderly of severely disabled patient costs tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars. I do not doubt that for purely financial motives the legal 'treatment' of death will come to be strongly favoured by families and governments over time, once the option is available.

Please do not allow this to happen in Victoria. Do not blight the lives of frail and vulnerable Victorians by recommending that euthanasia be legalized. Instead, please focus the committee's attention on how genuine palliative care can be improved and made more available.

Yours sincerely,

Name *Coenraad Boerlage*

Residential address