



Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Dr Peter Smith  
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#### SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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My friend David Mazoudier died aged 63, after several days of great pain, in Mercy Hospice, Waratah NSW 2298. His advance care plan nominated me as his health advocate and stipulated that at the end of his journey with pancreatic cancer (that had spread into his lungs and other organs) he would like a medically assisted death rather than to hang on drugged and in pain.

The hospice staff were legally barred from providing this support. They did what they could to help but during the last few days of his life in the hospice, which I spent with him, the drugs were no longer able to control his pain.

David's journey with his cancer began for him when about eight months before, following up on a skin cancer, his advanced pancreatic cancer was diagnosed. David was a non-denominational Christian who drove the local school buses and had recently won third prize in his local club's squash tournament. Years earlier he had witnessed his first child, Nathan, succumb, also after much needless pain, to childhood cancer.

David asked me to ensure that his partner and their grown-up son's should not be excessively directly exposed to his end of life suffering. As a consequence in the last week of his life they saw little of him and were not present in the final hours of his life.

Voluntary euthanasia would not only have prevented David's needless suffering but also have enabled him to die with dignity with his partner, his son's and his grandson present. Legalization to support voluntary euthanasia would also have allowed those care staff without religious or ethical objections to assisting a medically assisted death to have followed David's rationally thought out care plan.