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From: Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form
<cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>
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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Ms Leith Richards
[REDACTED]
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am a 60 year old woman who has been diagnosed with primary peritoneal cancer, Stage IV, which is a terminal illness. I have for many years believed that clear thinking adults who are terminally ill should be legally allowed to have the help of a compassionate doctor and drugs to let them end their lives peacefully and painlessly at the time they want to. The alternative may be weeks or months of emotional and/or physical pain and anguish. I have had a busy and fruitful life. I have a husband and two sons and the idea of them watching me slowly and painfully waste away and die because there is nothing anyone can do to avert it is emotionally excruciating, almost surreal. It would give me enormous peace of mind to know I had some control and that I could hopefully spare them and myself a little suffering. I have read with interest a law passed in 2013 in Vermont, USA. Many of the points make absolute sense to me. For example, doctors are not forced to help patients but are protected if they do. Also, life insurance companies cannot discriminate against terminally ill people who make this choice. The act is called the Patient Choice and Control at End of life Act in Vermont, USA (also known as Act 39).

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File1:

File2:

File3: