

From: John Carroll [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 27 July 2015 9:17 PM
To: LSIC
Subject: End of Life Choices Enquiry Submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write with respect to the End of Life Choices Enquiry.

Firstly, I oppose any attempt to allow euthanasia as an option to end of life.

Euthanasia is a dangerous step which takes away the voice of the elderly and infirm. It particularly can be used inappropriately in persons who suffer mental illness or other illness and can be used by carers to unnecessarily end a life. It is also possible that inappropriate use of medications and doses can cause more suffering. Furthermore, we have seen steps in Belgium whereby euthanasia has been made available to children who are not mature enough to make such a decision.

What the Victorian and federal governments need to do is invest in Palliative Care services. Palliative care has demonstrated evidence to enable dignified death due to appropriate management of physical and emotional symptoms that arise in persons with a terminal illness. Currently, the palliative care sector is under resourced and this is where the focus of governments should be rather than discarding human beings as mere objects. Palliative care has significant evidence over many years of enabling the person and their families to spend their final days, months and years with excellent pain and symptom management. Further developments in medicine will only continue to enable this to be the case but at present the need for governments is to invest in palliative care services. Furthermore, the governments need to invest in resources for educating the public about palliative care and what it entails and enables.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this enquiry.

Yours Sincerely,

John Carroll