

From: Annie Sobey [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 15 August 2015 9:10 AM
To: LSIC
Subject: Submission. inquiry Into End Of Life Choices

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Lilian Topic
 Secretary
 Legal & Social Issues Committee
 Parliament House
[Spring Street, Melbourne VIC 3002](#)

Dear Ms Topic

Submission – Inquiry into End of Life Choices.

I respectfully wish to add my weight, albeit it small, to the above Enquiry. I firstly must congratulate Victoria for listening to the voices of 'the people', where seemingly my State of New South Wales is lagging way behind.

The argument, as I see it, is divided into three group definitions and opinions.

Firstly the Ethos Group who dogmatically must convince and persuade that 'one size fits all' and draws on the ethics of their own religious beliefs i.e Church groups, or the personal beliefs, religious or otherwise, of those politicians who play the 'The Party Card' instead of the 'The Constituents Choice Card'

The second players the Pathos Group... 'Pathos an appeal to the emotional, creating an emotional response'. End of life is a very emotional experience. We would all opt for 'a nice death'. Through watching loved ones suffer and pondering our own demise, we wish to alleviate unnecessary suffering.

Lastly, the Logos Group. Your Enquiry. 'Logos an appeal to logic and is a way of persuading an audience by reason, exploring all options, safe guards, and public concerns. It is not unreasonable to listen and act on majority concerns and opinions in a democratic society.

As a retired grief counsellor I have seen first hand the ongoing effects of death and dying on patients and their loved ones. For the most part people would say to me when diagnosed with a terminal illness, 'I am not afraid of dying but it is the way I will die which is constantly playing on my mind'. The passing of two of my closest friends, one to the ravages of throat cancer, the other a slow painful, horrific death, as a result of Motor Neurone Disease, had an emotional effect on myself, more than I could have imagined, hereby urging me to submit to you, preceding your Enquiry my views.

I witnessed what I felt was needless, prolonged suffering. Whilst Palliative Care plays an important role in a person's end of life management, their aim is for less pain and suffering as possible, it often falls short of that mark. The horror, terror and suffering in my friend's eyes, her outstretched arms silently beseeching me 'to do something to make it stop' left me Feeling helpless, hopeless inadequate and less than human having to witness her suffering. Her being conscious, but not being able to communicate verbally in any way, in pain and being fed by a peg line to her stomach for weeks prior, prolonged her death and her suffering was inhumane. These are

the last pictures I have of her in my mind's eye, and her family's, the terror. That picture will remain in my psyche for all time.

My friend with throat cancer, fully conscious also, asking, asking, asking 'why is it taking me so long to die?'

My own personal journey. I am 72 years old and until 18 months ago an extremely fit and healthy woman. I was diagnosed with Stage 3 inoperable adenocarcinoma lung cancer. For a non smoker a bitter pill to swallow.

Being afforded legal choices regarding my own end of life personal management, which includes Voluntary Medical Euthanasia, would be of great comfort to own planning, as it would be to many terminally ill patients. It is but an option, a personal choice. With Modern drugs, medical techniques, state of the art equipment, professional expertise and the 'day of the specialist', are we not in so many cases prolonging death rather than prolonging life! Even when we choose not to?

I wish the Enquiry well in it's endeavours and congratulate Victoria in having the courage to have listened to *their* people, who wish to bring about change in legalising Voluntary Medical Euthanasia. The Ethos, Pathos and Logos being the machinations of the debate.

Yours Most Sincerely.
Annie Sobey.

Annie Sobey

