
From: Ann-Marie Diggins [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2015 5:59 PM
To: Isic@parliament.vic.gov.au
Subject: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Dear lilian,

I am writing as a GP with 23 years experience in caring for people of all ages. I have had some experience in providing medical care for people with terminal illnesses in co-operation with palliative care services and the district nursing services. I have also attended the AMA Victorian Forum on this very topic. I have also heard people who are members of Dying with Dignity and also my patients speak of there fears of being treated in ways they don't want. In my experience with palliative care services, every effort has been made to ensure people's wishes are respected and they are treated in they way they would like. I came to the opinion from my experience and attendance at the AMA Victoria forum on end of life issues that the law doesn't need to change but there needs to be changes within the hospital environment and medical culture to be more patient focussed and to meet their needs. This is difficult where there are inadequate resources to be able to provide the service people need in this area.

Please consider carefully any changes of the law. I myself feel it is very dangerous to give people the legally endorsed capacity to end someone's life prematurely, it reminds me of some societies who have what we call "witch doctors"- feared individuals with the ability to heal and to kill.

I remain, yours sincerely,

Dr Ann-Marie Diggins
Darwin Community Health
[REDACTED]