

28/7/15

VIIVIAN TOPIC,  
 SECRETARY,  
 LEGAL + SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE  
 PARLIAMENT HOUSE,  
 SPRING STREET  
 MELBOURNE VIC. 3002



DEAR MADAM SECRETARY,

IN RELATION TO THE FORTHCOMING INQUIRY INTO END OF LIFE CHOICES, I STRONGLY WISH TO SUPPORT MY OBJECTION TO ANY LEGALISING OR ASSISTED SUICIDE ON THE BASIS OF NAMELY,

(a) IMPROVEMENTS IN EFFECTIVENESS, AVAILABILITY OF AND ACCESS TO PALLIATIVE CARE ARE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE ANY CREDIBILITY TO END OF LIFE 'CHOICES'. IMPROVED CARE, NOT KILLING, SHOULD BE OFFERED TO US WHEN CONFRONTING THE END OF OUR LIVES.

(b) THE LEGALISING OF EUTHANASIA WOULD PROBABLY UNDERMINE PALLIATIVE CARE BY AFFECTING THE AMOUNT OF INVESTMENT OF RESOURCES IN IMPROVEMENTS TO PALLIATIVE CARE IF THE SEEMINGLY EASIER AND CHEAPER OPTION OF EUTHANASIA WERE LEGALLY AVAILABLE.

(c) SIGNIFICANTLY, THE PRACTICE OF EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE IS AGAINST THE ETHICAL CODES OF PEAK MEDICAL BODIES.

(d) ALSO, SAFEGUARDS CAN NEVER BE ADEQUATE TO PROTECT THE VULNERABLE IN SOCIETY.

IN CONCLUSION, I BELIEVE THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE CARE AND EQUITY OF ACCESS IS A SERIOUS SOCIAL ISSUE AND SHOULD BE STRONGLY PROMOTED.

YOURS, SINCERELY,

PETER J. McDONALD.