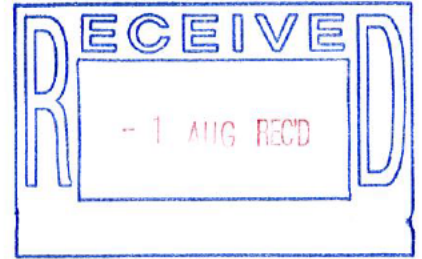


30th July 2015

To: Lilian Tope,
Secretary Legal & Social Issues Committee,
Parliament House,
Spring St.,
Melbourne, Vic. 3002.



Dear Madam,

I wish to make a submission in relation to changing the laws where "medical practices and palliative care can assist a person manage their end of life".

- 1 It was the wish of my late husband to have this option
- 2 He had an 11 hour operation for cancer of the salivary duct.
- 3 It meant severe discomfort + ^{afterwards} pain for 2 1/2 years in which time it was necessary for a 'peg' to be put in so that he could get sufficient nourishment to live. In all of that time + due to secondary cancers in his bones his life deteriorated.
- 4 Until cancer at the age of 76 he led a fit & active life. He accepted his illness & dealt with it very bravely but his quality of life diminished & one evening he requested me to ring the Euthanasia Society to find out if there could be a way to 'end it all' peacefully. It was the hardest phone call to make.
- 5 One evening towards the end he made the remark 'I don't think I deserved this' - which meant loss of dignity or by someone who had always behaved in that way. His life ended by a morphine drip inserted.
- 6 I owe it to my husband Kenneth McDonald to write this letter. He died in Dec. 1999.
- 7 As I am now 92 I wish for this law to be changed as I may need help myself as I do not want to go into a nursing home at the end of my life.
- 8 I hope to live to see a change in the law as stated above.

Lilian McDonald.