



Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues
Dear Committee Members

My name is Ralph Reginald Foster. D.O.B. [REDACTED]

My Address - [REDACTED]

I have been a paid up member of Dying with Dignity Vic., previously by the Voluntary Euthanasia Society of Vic. Inc for at least 20 years.

I strongly believe that it is criminal to deny people who are terminally ill and suffering from their illness the basic right to end their life if that is their choice, and they should be given legal medical assistance to do so.

Ask anyone if they would allow the family pet to suffer if it could not be satisfactorily treated and cured. The obvious answer from any caring person would be to take the pet to the Vet. and have it painlessly euthanised.

As members of the "Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues" you have been given a unique opportunity to strongly recommend in your report that legislation must be enacted to allow citizens the choice of medical assistance to end their life if that is their choice and wish.

You can see by my D.O.B. that I will be turning 84 years of age in less than 2 months. I have two wonderful children and four also wonderful grandchildren and I see them all regularly.

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I live alone and care for myself. I drive and shop and have an occasional lunch or dinner with close friends, I also manage to carry out household chores.

Although I was divorced in 1995 I remained close to my ex-wife who passed away in 2009.

My health is deteriorating faster than I would like and I may not be able to care for myself beyond the end of this year or sooner.

Based on my personal experience going into an Aged Care facility is definitely not an option. Surgery and rehab. to improve my mobility is also not an option, my choice. I must add that surgery etc., to hopefully improve my mobility has been very carefully considered.

If nature doesn't intervene in ending my life before I lose my independence and dignity I have only one choice that I will ensure will appear to be a natural event.

All things considered I have had a good life and I am not afraid to end it on my terms. I have an excellent G.P and many close friends and family and I believe I am of sound mind.

In conclusion I ask the committee to carefully consider the following: —

1. I believe it is proven common knowledge that in excess of 75% to 80% of the population believe it is the right of the individual to die with dignity, their choice.

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2. - From personal experience I know that many people are committed into living in aged care against their will, either by medical assessment or family pressure.
3. Also from personal experience I know that many people living in aged care live in abject misery and if they had the choice would prefer to end their life.
4. Medically assisted dying approved by legislation is the only answer to a long overdue and very important need.

Yours faithfully



(RALPH REGINALD FOSTER)