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26th August '2015

Dear Lillian Topic,

I believe the legal and social issues committee is accepting submissions from the general public re the inquiry into end of life choices.

So I am writing to you you my ideas and concerns advocating for a much more active much more humane form of euthanasia a law reform which is sadly enough so well overdue. I cannot understand for the life of me why anyone even deeply religious people could oppose any medical person relieving any form of human suffering even if it meant that persons death. I understand that one of the ten commandments is quote — "Thou shall not kill" But I am quite sure that in gods eyes and indeed in any fellow human beings eyes the exception would be for a medical person to kill a fellow human being to relieve that persons unbearable suffering would be acceptable. Please excuse my ignorance but as far as the legal side of it is concerned it is my understanding that euthanasia is a more basic human right. or at least should be, for everyone. It is definately not a privilege to die. Unfortunately and sadly enough the present victorian euthanasia law is far too restricted to mainly terminally ill or people who are suffering a lot of unbearable pain and competent people only. Even the advance care

(2)

26th August 2015

directive and present palliative care laws does not completely alleviate all unnecessary human suffering and indignities. There are also so sadly enough just so many other non-painful human conditions, for example, diabetes alzheimers and to be blind would be pretty terrible when some people would prefer to die with dignity.

Because this world is so hazardous unpredictable and so over crowded. The number one world problem is over-population and not enough facilities and resources to cope with the demand. I don't know about other Australian states, but most Melbourne hospitals are stretched beyond the bearable limits. There is an unacceptably waiting list. Some poor people are having to wait years for some elective surgery. The poor surgeons and paramedics are so over-strained that a lot of them are committing suicide. Even the gaols are bursting at the seams. So even murders should be allowed to choose to die as an alternative to a gaol sentence. There are also a lot of poor displaced and homeless people who would rather die than live on the streets. And then there are all the poor souls in nursing homes or mental hospitals some of whom would prefer the alternative to die with dignity. So let's not have any more debating about the subject and search our conscience

③

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So why can't the barbiturate or similar medication be allowed to be taken by competent people who are suffering and allow all physicians the right to euthanase all those poor souls who are in a hopeless vegetative state without prosecution. According to the latest gallop poll at least eighty per cent of Victorian people are in favour of a much more active much more humane form of euthanasia reform. Every human being in the world, not matter what age nationality human condition or religious persuasion knows when more than enough is enough and deserves the right to choose when and how they die - preferably the most peaceful painless and dignified way possible

Yours Sincerely

Miss Janette McDonald

My reply address is —

