



submission for voluntary euthanasia

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To: <lsic@parliament.vic.gov.au>

History: This message has been replied to.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I wish to advise of my total support for the legalisation of voluntary euthanasia to be accepted and passed in the government as a matter of dignity in end of life choices.

In 1987 I was present to witness my partner's father passing from terminal prostate/lung/brain cancer. It took 2 weeks for the end to occur, and he was unfortunate to have to spend that time totally incapable of movement or speech due to the large amounts of Valium and morphine being fed through to him via his back passage. This assisted with the pain, however it left him in a totally non-compus state. Now he was a man who had overcome many obstacles in his youth and who had worked extremely hard to become a major manager of one of the biggest insurance companies in Australia. He was a strict disciplinarian who respected the efforts of others, was a keen sportsman who excelled in cricket, an excellent provider and a very keen gardener who had just retired to a lovely home with many wonderful options ahead.

With the wonderful assistance of the palliative care team we were able to cut short the length of suffering for his wife & family and it was definitely the right thing to do, as being a burden to others would have been the very last thing he would have wanted, and if he were actually able to have seen himself just lying there unable to communicate or experience any real life he would have insisted that the end should occur as quickly as possible.

I have always been glad to have been able to assist and since then have been a keen supporter of voluntary euthanasia as a proper end of life choice. I feel very passionate about this becoming completely legal. It is barbaric that animals can be put down when their situation becomes hopeless but humans must be kept alive when faced with the same situation.

I hope this will be listened to and taken into account with your discussions.

Yours sincerely,

Kerryanne Matthews