

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LSIC](#)
Subject: Inquiry into End of Life Choices
Date: Saturday, 29 August 2015 10:30:32 PM

I submit that euthanasia is not a medical treatment and should not be considered as such under any circumstances. Palliative care, properly used, is a medical treatment which can be used effectively and ethically as an end of life choice. It can be used to relieve all forms of pain, allowing a person to die in physical comfort and with dignity. I would therefore advocate that adequate funding for palliative care be an integral component of all future Victorian healthcare budgets.

I further submit that there are no effective safeguards against misuse and abuse of assisted suicide. The experience of physicians in countries which have adopted it clearly demonstrates this truism, to the effect that many physicians who initially supported the introduction of physician assisted euthanasia have reversed their position on the matter. A case in point, Professor Theo Boer of Holland, was a member of a Regional Euthanasia Review Committee for nine years, but, having witnessed the number of such deaths and the reasons behind them greatly increase, now says: "Assisted Suicide-Don't Go There!"

As you can see I am greatly in favour of widespread palliative care facilities being made available for people entering end-of-life conditions, but firmly against assisted suicide of any kind.

Yours faithfully

Michael Long
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ph: [REDACTED]

Date of submission: 29.8.2015