

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LSIC](#)
Subject: Submission for 'End of Life Choices' Inquiry
Date: Monday, 31 August 2015 6:47:36 AM

Anna Hill

31 August, 2015

Dear Legal and Social Issues Committee,

Re: 'End of Life Choices' Inquiry

When considering medical options available at the end of life, please give considerable thought to the further development and provision of palliative care throughout Victoria.

Having experienced palliative care first hand when my own relatives were at the end of their lives, I know that this form of care provided great dignity, peace and comfort for both patient and family.

I believe that the provision of good palliative care is essential for dignity in dying for the terminally ill. I would urge the Committee to consider that when reviewing medical options for end of life that euthanasia and assisted suicide are not introduced for these both serve to end life, not respect or care for it.

In countries where they have been introduced (e.g. The Netherlands and Belgium), euthanasia and assisted suicide have spread beyond use in end of life situations to use in terminally ill children, babies and also dementia patients. By avoiding introduction of these in Victoria, the government and the people of the state have the chance to further develop and implement improved palliative care services, and ensuring that these are available to Victorians state wide.

Palliative care provides medical care and specialised treatment for the dying. Within this care, the provision of lethal substances or the promise of a lethal injection is not palliative in the true sense of that medical discipline. Our Victorian citizens deserve respect and dignity in dying which I know can come from palliative care.

People at the end of their lives, specifically the terminally ill, can be vulnerable to depression, fear and loneliness. Feeling they might be a burden to their family or carers, they may feel themselves that taking the option of euthanasia is a better solution. However, the provision of palliative care would give these patients and their families' great comfort, support and care.

Thank you for receiving my submission to the Inquiry. I urge our government to ensure all Victorians have access to high quality end of life care which can be realised by the provision of good quality palliative care.

Yours sincerely,
Anna Hill

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