

From: [Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form](#)
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Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into End of Life Choices
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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Our mother is 88 years old. She suffers progressed dementia, heart failure, a recent ruptured abscess the underlying reason for which has not been diagnosed as this would be too invasive and it may be malignant or not. She more recently had a stroke and there is a substantial risk of further strokes in the future. She also now deals with continence issues and she is very weak and frail. She is unable to look after herself and requires 24-hour care which we provide in her own home with the assistance of a live-in carer .

We have watched our mother change from being a highly intelligent, very active woman with a vital interest in the world around her, and amongst others doing voluntary work in the community, into a highly dependent person who requires total assistance with managing her continence, personal care, preparation of food, administration of medication, financial matters. She can't walk on her own because of balance issues, spends most of her day on the bed snoozing, has difficulty communicating and now forgets the names and histories of those who matter most to her, her family.

There is no possibility that our mother's health will improve to the point where she can regain her lost independence, communication skills and dignity. She has expressed a clear wish to refuse medical care if it only serves to keep her alive in a dependent or vegetative state. She is already totally dependent and is rapidly moving towards the vegetative state with her progressive illnesses.

It's very difficult for our family to watch this process. We believe our mother should have the right to choose to end her own life before she becomes vegetative, unable to communicate or recognize her family and fully incontinent, or allow her trusted medical power of attorney to make that decision on her behalf in conjunction with her physicians.

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