

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

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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To whom it may concern,

As a conscientious young occupational therapy student I am deeply concerned by the prospect of legalising euthanasia and assisted suicide in Australia.

In analysing countries where euthanasia has been legalised for several decades, such as the Netherlands and Belgium, it is clear that it is impossible to put in place safe-guards which will adequately protect patients who cannot advocate for themselves due to disability, illness or circumstance, from being killed against their wishes.

Euthanasia is promoted under the guise that it is a last-resort option for extreme cases of terminally ill people whose suffering cannot be alleviated. However, studies show that this is increasingly becoming a preferred method of dying not just for those suffering but simply for those who feel they have lived long enough or want to die before their "quality of life" is compromised in any way. This promotes a culture of acceptance of death on demand.

It places undue stress and pressure on those already in a vulnerable position to choose death in order to free their relatives from the burdens associated with costs of treatment and being the cause of other people's worry and concern. It is wrong to make people feel guilty for living, especially when they depend on others, and this is exactly what a culture of Euthanasia does. For some struggling people, just being offered euthanasia could make them doubt their own worth and value to others. No one should ever be made to feel their life is worthless.

Australia will be a more compassionate place if we continue to focus on caring for patients with mental and physical illnesses and disabilities rather than killing them.