

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LSIC](#)
Subject: Submission to End of Life Choices Inquiry
Date: Monday, 31 August 2015 9:51:29 PM

Mary Hill
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

31 August 2015

Dear Legal and Social Issues Committee,

Re: 'End of Life Choices' Inquiry

I urge the Inquiry to give considerable thought to the provision of good quality palliative care and its further development and implementation in Victoria. Having experienced palliative care first hand when my own relatives and friends were at the end of their lives, I know that this form of care provided great dignity, peace and comfort for both patient and loved ones.

I believe that the provision of good palliative care is essential for dignity in dying for the terminally ill. Victoria needs an increase in palliative care providers and I would encourage the development of improved services in this area.

I have grave concerns about the end of life measures of assisted suicide and euthanasia which have in other countries where introduced (such as The Netherlands and Belgium), spread beyond use in 'end of life' situations to use in cases of children, babies and dementia patients. Were these measures to be introduced into Victoria, would our children, babies and dementia patients be protected from these life-ending procedures?

Euthanasia and assisted suicide are not medical options for the end of life in that they extinguish life, not care nor protect it. Palliative care provides medical care and specialised treatment for the dying, something all people deserve at the end of their life. 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.

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.

Our government can do much to see the provision of high quality end of life care for all Victorians to provide dignity, true care and support for the terminally ill.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Hill