

TRANSCRIPT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

Subcommittee

Inquiry into end-of-life choices

Bendigo — 12 August 2015

Members

Mr Edward O'Donohue — Chair

Mrs Inga Peulich

Mr Cesar Melhem

Ms Nina Springle

Ms Fiona Patten

Staff

Secretary: Ms Lilian Topic

Research assistants: Ms Annemarie Burt and Ms Kim Martinow

Witness

Mr John Carty.

The CHAIR — I now call Mr John Carty, who also wishes to make a statement from the floor. Mr Carty, I also caution that all evidence taken at this hearing is protected by parliamentary privilege. Therefore you are protected against any action for what you say here today, but if you go outside and repeat the same things, those comments may not be protected by this privilege. Further, all comments from the floor will be recorded and the transcript provided for the correction of obvious errors of fact or grammar; however, substantive changes will not be accepted.

Mr CARTY — Just a comment to a previous speaker: I pass my condolences on to Geoff and his daughter. I knew Dorothy well, so I understand the situation to a degree.

I just really want to ask the committee, or the chair, about the witnesses. I found the witnesses to be very good today, and I have sat virtually right through. You would have found the same. Were they selected witnesses, or were they invited? How did you arrive at those particular witnesses?

The CHAIR — With the greatest respect, we ask the questions. If you wish to make a statement to the committee, I invite you to do so. We have received over 700 submissions, and there has been a great level of interest in what the committee is doing. If you wish to make a contribution, I ask you to do so now for a 2 to 3-minute period.

Mr CARTY — All right. All I wish to say is that I reiterate what the previous speaker had to say. We have to be very careful which way we tread. Experience overseas has shown us that there is a slippery slope, and if we were to go down that track, then we may have to suffer the consequences. There are circumstances that are heartfelt and pressing, and that it is something the state has to deal with. I just caution the inquiry to seek the total picture. That is what is developing here.

The CHAIR — Thank you very much for your statement.

Committee adjourned.