Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Ms Florence Buegge-Borhoff

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

I am an ex-nurse, and have been at the bedside of a number of patients, and watched them die horrific deaths with no chance of minimising the horror or pain they endured.

I specially remember Mrs Webb at age 55 who spent 20 hours in excruciating pain and convulsive spasms, vomiting faeces in the most ghastly, painful and prolonged torture that no amount of legally administered drugs could minimise.

My own mother dying of breast cancer and being offered a mixture of morphine and aspirin as a means of coping with the deep and ghastly pain of cancer eroding her spine.

As compassionate human beings in a western society where we consider it humane to put down a dog or cat in pain with no hope of recovery, I find it difficult to understand why I should perhaps have to spend my last days or hours undergoing intense suffering because of the different beliefs or "ethics" of politicians, doctors or religious leaders who mean nothing to me, and have no knowledge of what or how much I can bear.

I certainly do not wish to inflict my views or any pain on people who do not believe in euthanasia, but I believe that there should be a way for me or any person in dreadful hopeless circumstances, to legally choose to end their suffering without that choice putting at risk any loved ones.

Please allow an avenue for a person to avoid the choice of a rope in the garden shed (the most common form of suicide) where it can be found to the horror and shock of my children or family.