9 July 2015

Enquiry into end of life choices by Legal and Social issues Committee, lsic@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Lilian Topic,

We note the recent media information on the proposal of Gavin Jennings to have the matter of Euthanasia referred to your Committee for their enquiry. We object most strongly against this approach as deciding to kill somebody is a moral matter of life and death and, if anything, should not be decided in this manner and query if such issues should be even handled in this manner.

Just at the moment we have friends and relatives who are seriously ill or disabled and what they generally need is personal help to cope with their situation in life and sensitive professional assistance to help them make the most of their remaining years. Most of these afflicted ones are in some sort of depression, as surely we would be if we were in the same situation, but with the help of friends and good medical palliative care, most of us would give it our best go.

Therefore we expect you to accept whatever responsibility you acknowledge in deciding these matters which have become political and therefore request that you do all you can to ensure that the killing of innocent people is not legalised in this State, nor referred to other impersonal commissions for their decision. This sounds more like Himmler’s solution to the Jewish Problem in Europe to minimise criticism of their governing party.

We all know that many of our younger members of society are now more violent than previously, they are more likely to suicide, they are more likely to consume excessive alcohol and experiment with drugs, and they are more aggressive with respect to their so-called rights to so-called freedom. They are also experimenting in the sexual area resulting in higher rates of sexual disease, more juvenile pregnancies, and more abortions; current evidence appears to indicate the incidence of higher juvenile crime rates than before which one would expect to be carried over into adulthood. But I hope we don’t wish that these people be killed, even if their problems are permanent.

The aged such as us are particularly prone to depression and they need help, not elimination. Having recently attended the Port Phillip Council seminar on Elder Abuse the speakers there noted that there are a large number of people in the community who are subjecting their aged relatives to abuse; firstly, by obtaining power of attorney Guardianship, so that they can approve of their killing, and then taking over the right to eliminate them. The speakers warned their audience to beware, and that some of these people could even be their own relatives who have become desperately short of money!

We make our request to you as these politically nominated representatives, to support the current and future society needs in this area (and we will also contact other civic leaders) to ensure that at least the current standards are maintained, but preferably improved to ensure that Victorian people’s lives may be protected, and Society, particularly the disadvantaged, in general improved.

Let’s help our older citizens, the terminally ill, the disadvantaged, the injured, and ourselves, and not give in to the “get rid of them” push by the death industry.

And don’t fob off the ‘problem” to the medicos to make them our executioners.

Can we rely on you to act for the good of our society?

Michael. and Jo. Renehan,