Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Mr David Harris

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Some time ago, one of my closest friends was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. He told me that when he was in too much pain, and that when he could no longer enjoy the company of his friends and family, he wanted to end his life at a time of his choosing. The one thing he did not want was to kept alive with tubes going in to him, and out of him, all for the sake of perhaps a few more weeks of life. He had been told that unofficially there are some doctors who would be willing to help him. Thanks to our archaic laws, this dying man traipased all over Melbourne in an attempt to find an amenable doctor. He failed. He ended his days as he had feared. Immobile in a bed in excruciating pain. When I visited him, I thought about his wishes and wondered how I could kill him! I didn't of course, but this is a measure of my cowardice, nothing more. I urge you to consider the fact that this story may well be repeating itself at the moment, and we have a duty to allow individuals to live, and to die according to their own wishes. I hope that you will support legislation which will allow this to happen.

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File1:

File2:

File3: