I wish to submit the following to “Dying with Dignity” Inquiry:

To die with dignity should be a right for every person suffering unbearable pain and misery. To suffer such pain and embarrassment as bodily functions slowly disintegrate is both inhumane and callous. A government should not have the power over someone's choice to die. It is that person's choice – to be able to pass away peacefully, maybe surrounded by loved ones and at one's own choosing, is the kindest act society could allow for someone in unmanageable pain. Palliative care is a wonderful thing and we truly admire all those who work in this field but the reality is that the time comes when suffering is beyond palliative care. To prevent someone accessing "end of life" solutions is not kind, is not fair and cannot be justified on religious grounds. Nobody but the person involved should be able make such a decision. If laws are written clearly and with compassion then no one has anything to fear, no one is “forced” into accepting such an end. Those that say we risk a sudden increase in deaths of the elderly or infirm, that we increase the risk of "irritating elderly uncles" being "popped off", are talking nonsense and must not be allowed to influence this debate. Only rational debate should be heard.

From Prue and Max Beck,