Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Ms Josie Bamber

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am 81 years of age and in good health. However I have always believed that a choice should be available if a person has an incurable illness or is in terrible pain and there is nothing that can be done to save that person's life. I have a friend who used to be in my Tai Chi class and three years ago was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. She is now bedridden and knows there is no hope for her, except for more muscles to give up and what is known to be a terrible decline.

After all, humans end animals' suffering, why can't the same apply to humans? I know there are many people against voluntary euthanasia, but I would not ask them to take such a course. It would be a voluntary decision, hopefully to be made when we are of sound mind, enabling such a step to take place in the future.

Many countries around the world are dealing with such legislation and I urge the Victorian Parliament to grant people the right to choose voluntary euthanasia if their lives have become intolerable. If I lose the ability to look after my own toileting for instance and become a burden on society or family, I want the right to end my life legally. I saw a documentary about voluntary euthanasia in Switzerland, and it was so quick and compassionate. I want this to happen in Australia.

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