Friday 21 August 2015

Ms Lilian Topic
Secretary, Legal and Social Issues Committee
Legislative Council Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues
Parliament House
Spring Street
East Melbourne Victoria 30021

Dear Ms Lilian Topic,

RE: INQUIRY INTO END OF LIFE CHOICES

I am writing on behalf of the Medical Oncology Group of Australia Incorporated (MOGA), the peak professional group for medical oncologists and medical oncology in Australia in response to your correspondence dated 3 June 2015 inviting submissions to the Victorian Legislative Council’s Inquiry into End of Life Choices. The Association welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on this important matter.

The Association is a speciality society of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and along with the other thirty-two societies that fall under the umbrella of the College recently reviewed and endorsed the draft End of Life Position Statement developed by the College’s End of Life Working Party. The Association fully supports the recommendations detailed in this draft document and found the statement to be of high relevance and, in keeping with international best practice. Additional advice is as follows:

- It is recommended that the central role of collaboration between professionals involved in the patient’s care to avoid offering futile and burdensome interventions should be emphasised with regard to the role of medical professionals and documenting patient goals.

- MOGA supports an emphasis on patient-centred care which includes the patient having the option to participate or not in Advanced Care Planning and to choose when such discussions with them should take place. Creating structures for end-of-life care is important however a single structure will not meet the needs of all patients and an element of flexibility should be emphasised.
On behalf of the Association I recommend that the Inquiry seek a copy of the College’s Position Statement to inform your considerations. I trust this advice will be of assistance and thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

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