Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Mr. Paul Borg

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Increasingly western culture, and Victoria in particular is fast becoming a death culture disguised as a compassionate culture: we are legislating the principle that the inconvenient should be "medically" killed. We started with abortion, the killing of pre-born babies in the name of a woman's right to control her body (when this right should have been exercised far earlier in the process) and now we are facing of legislating the euthanasia of the old this sick and the depressed for the sake of Dying with Dignity. Experience in other countries and states whilst have legislated euthanasia have confirmed the fears of the "slippery slope" where the "right to die" now extends from those facing death on their old age to teenagers facing the problems of growing up and the passing depression that is often encountered in these years when hopes are not immediately fulfilled or are frustrated, to giving permission to parents, guardians or even doctors on their own to euthanize children under the teenage years on their own personal view of what "quality of life" means. Fundamentally these decisions are formed on the basis of what is convenient for the decision makers rather than the victim. Legalized euthanasia is but a very short step to euthanasia for "eugenic" and reasons of cost of medical treatment. There are many European and American precedents for this

I would like to refer to one of the famous dicta of President Abraham Lincoln, arguably the wisest and best President of the United States of America: "No law can give me the right to do what is wrong". The taking of a life of a human being is wrong. There are other ways in this modern world, both medical and psychiatric, (counseling, interventions, palliative care, assistance for the disabled and their carers etc etc.) to deal with the widespread and often very difficult circumstances of individuals at various stages of their life ( whilst the proponents are using as justification for this legislation.

Legislated killing for convenience, regardless whose, is a Crime against Humanity. The Judgement at Nuremberg established this principle beyond doubt.

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