
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 15 June 2021 8:30 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: Submission to the Health Committee

Re: Submission to the Health Committee

Dear Health Committee Members,

When my father-in-law was diagnosed with terminal cancer he was given just 3 months. At the time he had an infection and recovering from surgery that was ineffective. He was negative, frustrated and angry.

He said I wish that there was euthanasia here in Queensland. He wanted to end his suffering. I said I don't. Your son would like to have the chance to say goodbye. "He's fine. he's already said goodbye" my father-in-law answered. "And I don't think your wife is ready to say goodbye. "She's fine." He answered. He was so stuck in his own misery he thought no one cared.

It took 6 weeks for my brother-in-law to fly from Sweden to Australia and finish quarantine. On Christmas Day he was aloud to see his Dad. The visit started a pick up in my father-in-law and over the next few months his wife spent more quality time. And his health picked up too. He stopped having pain. We shared long lunches and he had lots of family time with the grandkids. The grandkids like all of us saw him get skinnier and his energy decline. The day before everyone had time to say a final goodbye including our 8 year old son. Dad was thankful for everyone of those last days. He changed his mind.

The blessing of cancer is that there is time to say goodbye. It helps everyone else left to process and accept what is happening. Though the person dying might feel they have said goodbye and all that needs to be said, this isn't true of the rest of the family.

I believe assisted dying will cause more pain not less, not to the person dying but to the family, friends and love ones left behind.

Sincerely,
Krystal Lopez-Barahona

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