
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 15 June 2021 11:39 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: Submission to the Health Committee

Re: Submission to the Health Committee

Dear Health Committee Members,

The composers of the assisted suicide bill are woefully ignorant of the complexities surrounding death and dying. Please allow only specialists in the area of dying to compose such legislation. Palliative Care Specialist doctors and clinical nurses understand this final of life and are qualified to comment on it. In Australia death and dying are such taboo subject that very few people have witness a dignified, pain-free final passage of life. Yet this is such a precious time for family to witness how life can end beautifully, unmedicalised and dignified. This stage need not be hurried over and quickened because it's to painful. Those last months and moments can be all equally precious rites of passage for a person, a family and ultimately a culture. Ought we be supporting the fostering of our those who are going through the dying process, rather than equipping any doctor who can give a cancer or other terminal prognosis and who may have no idea about Palliation or dignified death and dying the power to suggest and facilitate the person's sudden death as if they themselves were gods to decide when and how their own play should finish. To me it is reminiscent of our unhealthy c-section rates in Queensland, significantly higher than they ought to be. Undisturbed birth is beautiful and exhilarating when not interfered with unnecessarily. I've personally experienced this! Working for 10 years in a respiratory ward where palliation was doin so so well, I've literally nursed hundred and hundred of people through their final hours, painlessly! Such precious moments for the family and the person dying. I've also experienced the loss of a dear Uncle to AIDS who passed with dignity and painlessly through the marvelous care at St Vincent's Hospice in Sydney. Such precious memories would have been terribly tarnished if suicide were offered or worse in a moment of depression accepted. It was such a beautiful end for him. He was not killed, his dying passage was not stolen and a legacy of beautiful death was not robbed or destroyed for our family. Instead he left us with a legacy of how we can live AND die well. You do not choose to start life - it is a gift. And you do not choose to end life - it is appointed.

Sincerely,
Jenna-Eve Hitchcock

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