

Submission to the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

Submitted by Mr Graham Eric Wood

Dear members of the Committee

I am strongly against any changes to the legislation that would in any way support the act of euthanasia. This includes direct euthanasia when another person administers an agent to bring about death or indirect euthanasia where another person provides some facility or assistance of any sort that may be self administered or activated that results in death.

As a 70 year old person I have experienced the circumstances surrounding the death of both parents , my brother and sister my wife's parents and sister and some friends. These have been difficult times especially the death of my brother Laurie by the choking effect of anaplastic thyroid cancer. Fortunately the kind help of people nurses and doctors in palliative care have provided wonderful help in this aspect of life's journey.

To me and I am sure with all of us life is precious and not something that other people should be given the right to take away no matter what the circumstances. The trouble with euthanasia is that it gives the option for people to use other people to assist them to end their lives. This will be compounded by people saying "Oh person XYZ is suffering and is close to death (in their opinion), should then person XYZ be "assisted" to end their life. Or perhaps it is said that the hospital staff should end or are obliged to by law to end the life of person XYZ.

What I am saying here is that if euthanasia is legalized it changes the whole dynamic of society- death is not now a private matter for the person dying and their family, health providers and friends. I do not want to live in a society that legalizes euthanasia.

I have noticed some prominent people crying out saying "my parents went through terrible times " and that could have been avoided if they were put to death earlier. I am sure that it has been terrible just as it has been terrible for me in similar circumstances.

I would say to advocates of euthanasia yes the process of dying can be bad however with access to palliative care we now have, euthanasia cannot be regarded as morally acceptable

Please do not allow euthanasia to be legalized.

Yours sincerely

Graham Eric Wood