

## **SUBMISSION REGARDING EUTHANASIA**

To whom it may concern

I would like to submit my concern about the change to the law regarding euthanasia.

To begin with any change would cut across the Hippocratic Oath that the medical profession take to do all that is possible not to injure the people they treat. Euthanasia would be placing on doctors the responsibility to end someone's life.

Palliative care is available to help the dying to be comfortable and not to be experience in pain in their final days. My husband died 26 years ago after 5 months illness and had very good palliative care and way able to die in dignity. As a family we were able to face death without the knowledge that someone else had a hand in his death or even that my husband took his own life. There are studies that show the detrimental effect that suicide has on a family including deep physiological harm on children feeling they have been abandoned.

I am concerned that allowing euthanasia would not protect vulnerable people who may feel they are a burden to others. Government focus should be on compassionate provision of social services and health care as well as palliative care. Euthanasia would take away the dignity and value of human life. There are many examples of people who have risen above despair and accomplished great things. I work in an area where people come in depressed and see no point in living but with counselling are able to change and live life to the fullest.

Euthanasia opens a door that will extend not only to the sick but to others including children who are the future of our country. In other countries legalizing euthanasia has brought about the death of the mentally ill and children with severe physically disabilities. Is the underlying motive of euthanasia to bring about a 'perfect' society?

Let us not open this door but value life and not put the burden on doctors to assist suicide.

Cheryl Blaikie

18/10/17