

Item of business :

End of Life Choice Bill

Submission name :

Mrs Anneke Leathley

Comments

I am opposed to euthanasia being legalised in New Zealand. I have worked as a Palliative care nurse for 15 years. I have seen many people die. I believe our Palliative care service negates any reason to legalise euthanasia. The dying process is a natural part of life and I do not believe it is our right to shortcut it. I think there will be undue pressure placed on the elderly to submit to euthanasia, due to not wanting to be a burden or even to save money. Also for those who have conditions such as muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy. they could be made to feel guilty for wanting to live their lives. Taking life in this way leads to a non compassionate selfish society. We live in a death denying society, we don't want to suffer pain. Much can happen in Spiritual growth as a person dies and has to find help beyond themselves. Family and relationship breaks can often be healed. It brings opportunities to forgive and be forgiven. A person who is depressed does not know that their depression may pass and they will feel the joy of living again. They need hope, not an exit strategy. Spare a thought also please for the health professionals who are to administer this euthanasia. Our whole medical system runs on the premise of preserving life and holding it as precious. Please do not legalise euthanasia in NZ.

Recommendations

Please do not legalise euthanasia in New Zealand. Please continue to value as precious, human life.

Ensuring good access to Palliative care is paramount.

Think carefully about unnecessary medical procedures to extend life when it may be prudent and kinder to let nature take its course.