

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Palliative care

This issue is an important one! Decisions to be made regarding Palliative Care can either open up abuse to the weak and vulnerable who can no longer fight for themselves or offer the right to die in dignity with adequate care and support in the final stages of life. It is our duty to care for these "our people" with adequate funding, counselling and resources. Many of these people have already made valuable contributions to our communities and we must not forget them in their time of need.

Carers are often a neglected minority! However by supporting carers adequately should in turn lessen the demand on government coffers. Carers often work tirelessly beyond the call of duty without monetary incentives. Therefore if we provide resources and money to these carers, this in turn will lessen the burden placed upon government.

To neglect the ageing or weak and vulnerable would be a crime against humanity and one that would undermine the values Australians have espoused for many generations. Unfortunately these values are being steadily eroded today by those who no longer espouse these same values of protecting life as we once did but this should not prevent those who have been elected by the people to make decisions contrary to these values.

When making final deliberations ask:

- If this were my mother, father, son, daughter, etc what would I do?
- If I were in their place, how would I feel?
- Is this decision respecting and caring for the person's dignity and life?

Yours sincerely,

Trisha Ellis