

Inquiry into Suicide in Australia

We are shocked to find that the terms of reference for this inquiry by the Community Affairs References Committee in listing the "high risks " groups ignores the most important group of all i.e elderly citizens.

Elderly citizens with higher standards of education and lack of religious superstition are in quickly increasing numbers forced to end their lives by suicide.

The principle reason for suicide by the elderly is not illness and pain but because of uncertainty as to their future ability to personally end their lives in the most humane manner or to arrange for a dignified assisted ending in circumstances outlined by them while still able to make reasoned decisions.

The very existence of a legal dignified assisted ending would hugely reduce suicides among the current elderly and probably negate any increase at all in the future.

We ask that the committee enlarge their inquiry to consider this important aspect.

M H and E D Lotton