

Dear Senators,

I respectfully ask that members of the committee satisfy themselves that the Criminal code amendment (suicide related material offenses) bill 2004 does not prevent (intentionally or otherwise) the collection, dissemination and discussion of information and data relating to the horrific violent suicide by the terminally ill and elderly Australians.

An unhealthy ignorance exists in our community about the scale of misery and trauma caused when elderly citizens take their own lives violently and alone. Most politicians, it seems, are disinterested and it will only be by activists in the voluntary euthanasia movement bringing the facts into the public arena that a change in attitude will eventually occur.

It is imperative we face how and why the elderly suicide as well as the implications for those they leave behind, not simply wring our hands at the numbers of them doing it.

Rational suicide exists and pretending that by trying to stop individuals seeking information on the options will reduce the incidence is naive.

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