
From: Clive Monty
Sent: Thursday, 27 March 2008 10:11 AM
To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Re: Acknowledgement of submission #36 received for the Inquiry into the Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008

Thank you for your confirmation of my submission (#36) to the Committee.

Is it possible at this stage to clarify one section?

I give a 5% figure for people who would not benefit from palliative care. I meant that **about 5% of people IN palliative care** get no benefit from it as their pain is intractable.

I am aware that many people do not have access to palliative care, and so this figure may be quite larger for the number who would not benefit from palliative care.

I got the figure of 5% from "Right to Die? An examination of the euthanasia debate" by Miriam Cosic published in Australia 2003 by New Holland Publishers(Australia) Pty Ltd Sydney Auckland London Cape Town
ISBN 1 86436 809 8
(Printer: McPherson's Printing Group, Victoria)

"Palliation specialists say that physical pain is now manageable in the vast majority of cases; **no more than 5%**, they estimate, **are impervious to the latest medications.**" (p.230) (my emphases)

In the concluding section of the book 'Towards A Resolution' Ms Cosic quotes Zbigniew Zylicz ("the respected Dutch palliative care physician and anti-euthanasia campaigner, who made a key contribution to Hendin's book "*The Case Against Assisted Suicide*" p. 105) who says "that 10 years of working in his hospice has taught him not to look at the issue in black-and-white terms. 'I'm a proponent of palliative care, for sure, but I cannot say that I am an opponent of euthanasia 100 per cent ... I believe that with good palliative care we can solve many, many problems, **but not all of them. If you really listen to the needs of the patient, you need to consider euthanasia.** (my emphases) I will not be the person that performs it. but I would not oppose it in every case and say it is evil. I also do not judge my colleagues, the doctors who are performing euthanasia. I think to say they are doing wrong is the wrong attitude.'" (p. 264)

If this needs to be submitted separately from my original submission that would be acceptable to me.

Clive Monty