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5 August 2015

Committee Secretary
Legal and Social Issues Committee
Victorian Government

lsic@parliament.vic.gov.au

To the Victorian Government Legal and Social Issues Committee

Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Liberty Victoria is one of Australia's leading human rights and civil liberties organisations. It is concerned with the protection and promotion of civil liberties throughout Australia. As such, Liberty is actively involved in the development and revision of Australia's laws and systems of government. Further information on our activities may be found at www.libertyvictoria.org.au.

Liberty Victoria supports a terminally ill person's right to die with dignity. As early as 1998 Liberty Victoria produced a booklet titled *The Final Choice – Considerations on Choosing to Die*, and has in the past supported voluntary euthanasia Bills.

Liberty Victoria has had the benefit of reading Dying With Dignity Victoria's (DWDV) comprehensive submission to the Legal and Social Issues Committee. We endorse the DWDV submission. We firmly agree with DWDV's recommendations for end of life choices. We believe that their specific exclusions and safeguards on page 9 and 10 of their submission address the concerns often raised by those opposed to voluntary euthanasia and should be adopted in any forthcoming Bill.

Should you wish to discuss this issue further please contact Gillian Garner through the Liberty Victoria office on 9670 6422 or info@libertyvictoria.org.au. Liberty would appreciate the opportunity to address the Committee's terms of reference in detail in any oral hearings that the Committee may establish. This is a public submission and is not confidential.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George A Georgiou'.

George A Georgiou SC
President
Liberty Victoria