

PROLIFE FACTS

Parliament's Health Select Committee published their report on their investigation into public attitudes towards the introduction of euthanasia and assisted suicide legislation. The 2-year long investigation was in response to a petition received in June 2015 by former Labour MP Maryan Street and 8,974 others. More than 21,000 submissions were received, of which only about 4,000 were in favour of euthanasia. The report is a balanced summary of the 21,000 written submissions the Committee received and what they heard from 944 people speaking to them in person – a record number of submitters on any issue to date. The Chair of the committee, Simon O'Connor, told NZ Doctors Online that after hearing these submissions, the Committee is not in favour of changing the law. He said the report adds a voice against those who say 'this is just a no-brainer'. The following is a quote from the report, summarising key findings: "Eighty percent of submitters were opposed to a change in legislation that would allow assisted dying and euthanasia. Submitters primarily argued that the public would be endangered. They cited concern for vulnerable people, such as the elderly and the disabled, those with mental illnesses, and those susceptible to coercion. Others argued that life has an innate value and that introducing assisted dying and euthanasia would explicitly undermine that idea. To do so would suggest that some lives are worth more than others. There were also concerns that, once introduced, eligibility for assisted dying would rapidly expand well beyond what was first intended." The report is available at <http://tiny.cc/HSCreport>. (Please note that this investigation was not about David Seymour's End of Life Choice Bill, now expected to be voted on in October.) More information on this issue is available from euthanasiafree.org.nz or 0800 427642.

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Eighth page
47.5 x 128.5

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Parliament's Health Select Committee published their report on their investigation into public attitudes towards the introduction of euthanasia and assisted suicide legislation. 80% of submissions were opposed to changing the law (which is close to the 77% result of the full analysis of submissions by the Care Alliance). The report is a balanced summary of the 21,000 written submissions the Committee received and what they heard from 944 people speaking to them in person – a record number of submitters on any issue to date. The Chair of the committee, Simon O'Connor, told NZ Doctors Online that after hearing these submissions, the Committee is not in favour of changing the law. He said the report adds a voice against those who say 'this is just a no-brainer'. The committee recommends that people read their report in full to gain a better understanding of the issues involved. The report is available at <http://tiny.cc/HSCreport>. More information on this issue is available from euthanasiafree.org.nz or 0800 427642.

Quarter page
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13/8/2017