

15th March 2013

The Premier of Tasmania
Hon. Lara Giddings MHA
Parliament House
GPO Box 123, Hobart, Tasmania 7001
Hobart
TASMANIA 7000

Dear Premier

AMA Tasmania response to Voluntary Assisted Dying Proposal

Please find enclosed AMA Tasmania's response to your proposal for Voluntary Assisted Dying. Also enclosed for your information is a copy of AMA Tasmania's response to the Enquiry into Dying with Dignity Bill 2009. The views expressed in this document remain current.

AMA Tasmania does not support your proposal for Voluntary Assisted Dying. The AMA is of the view that there should be no change in legislation

We are most concerned that your proposal is constructed in such a way that it does not establish that the Tasmanian community wants or accepts euthanasia, nor does it call for comment on the concept of euthanasia but simply on the mode of administering euthanasia.

Your proposal will, put simply, allow doctors to legally and intentionally kill their terminally ill patients on request. This is a tenet that fundamentally changes the core of the principle of the doctor patient relationship.

We note that previous wide ranging Tasmanian Parliamentary inquiries in 1998 and 2009 have not recommended proceeding with such legislation and numerous international Parliamentary Inquires have rejected such proposals as posing a very real danger to the most vulnerable in our community. Your proposal does nothing to suggest otherwise.

Indeed in in those jurisdictions where euthanasia is legal there is considerable evidence to support the argument that the most vulnerable in our community are indeed exposed to risk.

Lastly it is our opinion that the research on which you base many of your arguments is both highly selective and deficient.

Yours sincerely



Dr John Davis
President