

From: Karen Downing [REDACTED]
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To: Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services - Inquiry into the Exposure Draft of the *Drugs of Dependence (Cannabis Use for Medical Purposes) Amendment Bill 2014* and related discussion paper

From: Dr Karen Downing, [REDACTED]

We have all been touched by the realities of cancer. Most of us have probably watched family and friends endure the horrors of chemotherapy. Many of us have seen them die anyway.

The most difficult case I have had to witness was my eldest child who was ten at the time of diagnosis. The wretchedness of undergoing treatment so fierce that oncologists hope they will kill the cancer before they kill the child – with drugs going in through a central venous catheter into the jugular vein and ‘food’ going in through a nasogastric tube – is almost unimaginable.

My child survived – perhaps you could argue that the suffering was worthwhile. You certainly could not argue that the suffering is worthwhile if death is the only outcome.

We may not have much control over the outcome, but we can do something about the suffering.

Please support this bill.

Kind regards

Dr Karen Downing, [REDACTED]
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