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Message of support for Australian Care Alliance

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Dear Dr Buchanan

I have noted that your group has formed an alliance to address the concerns related to euthanasia and physician assisted suicide / voluntary assisted dying. The Victorian legislation and related proposed liberal changes have grave consequences for our society and the future of medical care including the expectations placed on medical practitioners.

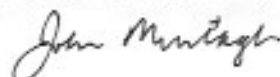
The objectives of Australian Care Alliance (ACA) appear to me to a most appropriate way to rationally address the complex human issues surrounding end of life issues. This includes proposed appropriate research and ethically determined alternatives. Support for this approach has been promoted by caring relevant organisations such as the Australasian Association of Palliative Care Doctors and the ANZ society of Geriatric Medicine

It is pleasing to note that ACA is emphasizing the importance of appropriate access to excellent palliative care.

I believe that ACA would be an appropriate organisation to evaluate the pros and cons of Advanced Care Planning strategies for those vulnerable groups such as the frail elderly, terminally ill people, those with chronic disease and the significantly handicapped.

The position statement by the Australian Medical Association "the National AMA's position on physician assisted death is that: 'doctors should not be involved in interventions that have as their primary intention the ending of a person's life'" would be in absolute harmony with ACA's objectives.

Congratulations on your work to support the current ethical framework of key doctor's organisations. I fully endorse your vitally important work.



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