



Biel-Benken, 9.12.2021

To Members of Parliament of NSW Australia

I have regularly been in touch with Janet Cohen for the last five years. Janet is suffering from a cancer disease since 2013. She became a member of lifecircle in 2016, and later applied for the green light. The personal letter of application was really personal, with wonderful pictures of her life and her family.

At that time she suffered from metastatic cancer and one could fear that she would have no chance to live much longer. As I do this always, I gave her the opportunity to apply for the 'green light', which means that she can ask for a date for assisted voluntary death (VAD) if her suffering gets unbearable.

But more important I encouraged her to go on trying to do the best to go on living, do the things she loves to do and to continue advocating for legalization of VAD in her home country. How wonderful that she made it for such a long time!

Janet is a very strong woman, and what I hope most for her, is that she does not need to travel to Switzerland to die in peace and without suffering. Receiving the green light gives people peace, safety, so they can go on living with much more power. The case of Janet Cohen proves that having choice, the open door to a peaceful death, gives patients more power to live their life, to cope with more suffering, as they know there is a way out. I do hope that Janet and other Australians can have access to VAD soon in Australia.

Today we gave VAD to a young Australian suffering from motor neuron disease. He came with his three children, completely exhausted from the long journey from Australia to Switzerland. Everyone must be allowed to die at home, the trip to Switzerland is not the solution. Please give choice to everyone, to take responsibility for their own death the way they have taken responsibility for their own life.

kind regards
Dr. med. Erika Preisig
general practitioner and
president of the
Eternal Spirit Foundation
www.lifecircle.ch

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead
"What we need in this debate is not sympathy, but compassion and respect." Paul Lamb.