

**EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE — LEGALISATION**

*Petition*

**DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale)** [3.04 pm]: I have a petition that has been certified as conforming with the standing orders of the Assembly. It has 4 230 signatures. The petition says —

**To the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled:**

**Because the legalisation of euthanasia and assisted suicide, despite all attempted safeguards, inevitably leads to**

- an extension of killing from those who ask for it (voluntary) to those who do not ask for it (involuntary),
- an extension of killing from the terminally ill to the mentally ill and the elderly,
- an emotional blurring of a “right” to die with a “duty” to die,
- a distrust in doctors and hospitals, especially on the part of the elderly and terminally ill and their families, and
- a financial pressure on governments to favour euthanasia over life-sustaining treatment and palliative care

**We respectfully urge the Parliament not to legalise euthanasia and/or assisted suicide in Western Australia. Rather, we urge the Parliament to enforce and/or enact laws to**

- ensure that adequate palliative care is available to all who need it
- uphold the dignity of the handicapped, the infirm and the elderly, and protect them from pressures to end their lives,
- protect the nobility of our medical institutions and personnel by refusing to associate them with patient-killing,
- encourage all doctors to continue to be true to the Hippocratic Oath: “I will use treatment to help the sick according to my ability and judgment, but never with a view to injury and wrong-doing. Neither will I administer poison to anybody when asked to do so, nor will I suggest such a course.”

**Your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.**

[See petition 119.]