



Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

Guide for Submissions

Inquiry into the need for laws in Western Australia to allow citizens to make informed decisions regarding their own end of life choices

The Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices would welcome your submission on the need for laws in Western Australia to allow citizens to make informed decisions regarding their own end of life choices.

Submissions help the Committee to understand an issue from many different perspectives, including from the perspective of an individual's personal experience or by providing expert opinions or technical information.

(i) Assisting the Committee

Your submission can assist the Committee by helping it to fulfil the task it was set by Parliament. That task is to inquire into and report on its terms of reference. These are set out in section (ii) below.

You may, for example provide a submission which addresses the broader question the Committee is inquiring into, of whether there is a need for laws in Western Australia to allow citizens to make informed decisions regarding their own end of life choices. For example, you might have a view on whether or not there is a need for changes in the law based on your own personal circumstances, a family member's or other loved one's end of life experiences.

Alternatively your submission might address just one aspect or all of the more specific terms of reference set out for the Committee as outlined in (a) to (d) below.

(ii) The Committee's Terms of Reference

The Committee is required by Parliament to address its terms of reference. These are to:

inquire into and report on the need for laws in Western Australia to allow citizens to make informed decisions regarding their own end-of-life choices and, in particular, the committee should —

- a) assess the practices currently being utilised within the medical community to assist a person to exercise their preferences for the way they want to manage their end of life when experiencing chronic and/or terminal illnesses, including the role of palliative care;
- b) review the current framework of legislation, proposed legislation and other relevant reports and materials in other Australian states and territories and overseas jurisdictions;

- c) consider what type of legislative change may be required, including an examination of any federal laws that may impact such legislation; and
- d) examine the role of advanced health directives, enduring power of attorney and enduring power of guardianship laws and the implications for individuals covered by these instruments in any proposed legislation.

Any submission which assists the Committee to address its terms of reference, including the broader issue of the need for laws in Western Australia to allow citizens to make informed decisions regarding their own end of life choices, would be welcome.

(iii) Lodging your submission

Submissions should be lodged no later than **Monday, 23 October 2017** and addressed to:

The Principal Research Officer
Select Committee on End of Life Choices
Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Submissions can also be forwarded electronically to eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au

(iv) Other important information

Please note that, unless the Committee decides otherwise, submissions are part of the Committee's public record. This means that your submission may be published on the Parliament's website with your name, disclosed for the purposes of the Committee's enquiries, referred to in public hearings and, at the end of the inquiry, referred to in the Committee's published report and tabled as a public document in the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council as part of the Committee's inquiry evidence.

If you would like the Committee to consider a request for your correspondence to be accepted as a confidential submission please include that request with your submission. The Committee will consider any request you make, but you need to know that the Committee has the authority to publish any submission.

You should also be aware that if your correspondence is accepted as a submission by the Committee, it will be protected by parliamentary privilege if it is disclosed or published by the Committee. This is an important protection so that you can be honest and direct in your submission to the Committee. However, if your submission criticises another person, the Committee may send your comment to the other person so they may respond.

Until such time as your submission is published by the Committee you should not share it with others. If you publish or disclose the content of your submission you may not be protected by parliamentary privilege.

Further information about the terms of reference or the presentation of submissions may be obtained by visiting the Committee's website at www.parliament.wa.gov.au/eolcc or contacting the Committee's Principal Research Officer, Dr Jeannine Purdy, on 9222 7442.