

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Legal euthanasia and assisted suicide will inflict terrible mental stress on the elderly

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From:

Sent: Sunday, 15 October 2017 7:46 AM

To: Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices <eolcc@parliament.wa.gov.au>

Subject: Legal euthanasia and assisted suicide will inflict terrible mental stress on the elderly

Please accept my submission to the inquiry into end of life choices.

I strongly oppose the legalisation of euthanasia and ask that you rule it out at an early stage from your consideration of legitimate end-of-life choices.

This is because even the availability of legal euthanasia would inflict terrible psychological pressure on elderly or severely ill people to prematurely end their lives when they would otherwise have no desire to do so. And this pressure will only increase if euthanasia were ever to become the dominant method for disposing of old people. In such a climate, effective palliative care would be scarce and much more expensive, increasing the pressure to submit to doctors' and relatives' wishes especially when there are fewer people of working age to bear the cost of medical care for the elderly as the population ages.

I therefore pray that the committee will use the opportunity presented by this inquiry to safeguard Western Australia from these outcomes before the financial arguments begin to weigh more and more heavily upon the debate. In order to protect the availability of effective palliative care choices, I pray that you will recommend that euthanasia not be legalised.

Yours sincerely,

S Jan Beauchamp