

## SUBMISSION

The Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

Inquiring into the end for laws in Western Australia to allow citizens to make informed choices regarding their own end of life choices.

Submitted by: Jennifer Elloy, private citizen



General Position:

I am not in favour of any change to the WA State laws relating to the provision of voluntary euthanasia or physician-assisted dying .

Reasoning :

Addressing Term of Reference One, the change in the WA law governing the provision of Euthanasia and PAD will inevitably have a detrimental effect. This will be not only on so many vulnerable groups such as the disabled, chronically and mentally ill, the aged and frail, but those who have committed themselves to the protection and sanctity of human life, such as doctors and nurses. Death, in whatever form, has a profound effect on the lives of others. It is not just an individual issue for "a person to exercise their preference" (Term of Reference One).

Those who advocate Euthanasia or PAD erroneously believe that it provides a compassionate way and possibly a simple way to end a life. Often the decision to end one's life is associated with deep depression or mental health issues. Suicide or assisted Killing has never been and will never be the answer.

Term of Reference One invites consideration of palliative care. So, perhaps more investigation into the support, love and care of anyone who is affected by suffering and pain, disability or old age would prevent people from making decisions to end their lives and eliminate the need to consider PAD. As a society we have the responsibility to take care of the sick, vulnerable, feeble and voiceless.

Euthanasia or patient-assisted dying is not the answer. We owe it to ourselves and our children to reject this legislation. The Committee is urged to take into account the evidence and dangers it presents to other groups of vulnerable people such as the unconscious, disabled babies, children, those suffering with dementia and psychiatric illnesses who are unable to provide informed consent.

Signed

Date

11 October 2017.