

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

From:

Sent: Monday, 23 October 2017 3:59 PM

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

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Attn Principal Research Officer

Scientific and medical research studies have shown that the presence of chronic pain affects fundamental aspects of decision making. For example, see <https://www.dovepress.com/patients-with-chronic-pain-lack-somatic-markers-during-decision-making-peer-reviewed-article-JPR>

It would therefore be an injustice to pass laws that allow those who are terminally ill and in pain to make end of life choices at a time when they are most vulnerable and cognitively impaired.

See also

[http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/ljf/site/articleIDs/2EDD47C8AEB2BB36CA25756F0018AFE0/\\$file/JI10_Cognitive_impairment.pdf](http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/ljf/site/articleIDs/2EDD47C8AEB2BB36CA25756F0018AFE0/$file/JI10_Cognitive_impairment.pdf)

Extending laws to permit others to assist the chronically ill with those end of life choices, is tantamount to legislating approval of the killing of another person (i.e. murder) and is a trespass on moral laws. It goes well beyond assisting others to manage their "affairs". The killing of oneself, no matter the circumstances, is self-murder and contradicts Australia's efforts to reduce the suicide rate in this country.

The choice of our own birth was not ours. Nor is our own death a choice that we or others should be legally entitled to make.

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