

SUBMISSION

To the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

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

Submitted by Mr H.J.H. and Mrs A.V. Wolton, private citizens



General Position

- 1 We believe that current Western Australian laws on Advance Health Directives and Enduring Power of Guardianship make sufficient provision for citizens to make informed choices about their end of life options.
- 2 We do not support changing State laws to provide for voluntary euthanasia or physician-assisted dying.

Reasoning

- a) In the context of informed decision-making in end of life choices the question of assisted dying will inevitably be raised, reflecting moves elsewhere to legislate for euthanasia or physician assisted dying (PAD).
- b) Euthanasia and PAD are promoted as if they were a simple way to address the complex problem of suffering at the end of life. They are not simple. They both carry substantial risks.
- c) Wherever euthanasia or PAD has been legislated for persons with chronic or terminal illness, the laws have always been subsequently extended to cover other classes of citizens, on the basis that it would be discriminatory not to do so. This is inevitable once Parliament breaches the absolute prohibition on one person intentionally killing another.
- d) The frail aged, disabled, chronically and mentally ill are particularly at risk.
- e) Neither euthanasia nor PAD have been legislated safely anywhere in the world.
- f) The only way to protect all classes of citizens into the future is to make sure that euthanasia and PAD are never made lawful.

16th September 2017.

H.J.H. WOLTON

A.P. WOLTON