

## 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 Ms Susan van Kessel, private citizen



## General Position

1. The current Western Australian laws on Advance Health Directives and Enduring Power of Guardianship have sufficient provision for individuals to make informed choices about their end of life choices, I believe.
2. I do not support changing state laws to provide voluntary euthanasia of physician-assisted dying.

## Logic

- a) Euthanasia and physician assisted dying (PAD) are presented as being a simple way of addressing the complex issues of suffering at the end of life. They are not simple. They both have substantial risks legally and morally.
- b) One person never has the right to intentionally kill another and this is what changes to the law would allow. Euthanasia is always a public act with public consequences as it involves at least one other person.
- c) The frail aged, disabled, chronically and mentally ill are particularly at risk of being taken advantage of if the law is changed.
- d) Neither euthanasia nor PAD have been successfully legislated safely anywhere in the world. In the Netherlands the original intention of legislation has been extended to many vulnerable people including the unconscious, disabled babies, children and others who cannot provide informed consent.
- e) People who do not wish to be euthanased can have certainty that their end of life preferences are respected **only if Parliament declines to legislate any form of euthanasia or assisted dying.**

I wish to appear before the Committee to present my case.

Thank you for the opportunity to present a submission.

Susan M van Kessel

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