

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Submission: End of Life Choices Inquiry

From: Jacinta

Sent: Monday, 23 October 2017 1:02 PM

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

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Dear Members of the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices.

Thank you for the opportunity to send a submission on End of Life Choices. Relatives of ours have had to deal with the loss of a loved one due to cancer. It is painful and sad and yet they are grateful that their father/husband received the best care and support available.

We believe that both murder and suicide are wrong because the bible is clear on these matters. The Lord is the giver of life and He in His good timing is also the taker of life. Ending ones own life is prohibited.

Allowing assisted suicide, as it is called (which is, at heart, 'murder'), will devalue the life of those suffering. We believe it will put unnecessary strain on individuals who may recognise that they are physically unable to contribute to society and thus may feel themselves to be a burden and feel silently pressured to have their life taken away from them. In such circumstances, choosing to live may become a fight against the created expectation that they should die prematurely, rather than an accepted norm that death will occur in its own timing and that the doctors are there to alleviate pain and suffering as much as possible.

Emphasis should not be place on ending ones life when the suffering is intense, but rather, the emphasis needs to be on good palliative care and pain management. Dying patients and their families must know that they have the best support and care possible and may rest in the knowledge that the medical system is there to preserve life, not to kill. Every life is precious and needs to be treated as such.

We implore you to do all in your power to prevent legalised euthanasia. Support palliative care instead so that people do not feel the need to end their life.

Yours sincerely,
Ed and Jacinta Schoof