

Attention: Principal Research Officer
Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices
Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000
4th October 2017

Ms Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA
Chair of Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

Dear Ms Sanderson,

My Husband and I have just added Advanced Care Directives to our wills. The wishes of each of us is to have as peaceful and dignified death as possible when our time to die comes. We support voluntary euthanasia or assisted dying and we hope the laws can be changed to allow us this choice if needed at the end of our wonderful lives.

I have nursed a dying husband who wanted to die only one week before he did die. One long and suffering week for him and his family. He begged me to find some way to help him go. We have sat with a friend and his family who also took four long suffering days to die. Both John and David had terminal illnesses and accepted palliative care but these wonderful men were denied at the end the compassion we show to our beloved animals.

My husband's sister suffered a severe stroke and had not put in place an A.C.D. before this happened. The result was that despite her wishes she lingered for five long years in a nursing home fed liquid food through a tube inserted into her stomach and unable to do anything for herself. Her condition wasn't a "terminal illness", but there was no alternative available for her except to suffer a long, slow and isolated descent to death. The lack of legislative compassion for people to access is cruel. No such lack of compassion for animals.

If for some reason a chronic condition makes life unbearable, giving us the choice of assistance from a doctor to end our lives with dignity **should be the right of every individual.**

We are part of the older generation, enjoying the birth of great-grandchildren but aware that dying is getting ever closer. **We want to have as peaceful and dignified death as possible, a good death at a place of our choice with whoever wishes of our family and friends around.**

Please consider my submission in the context of thinking about how you would like to die when your time comes. I am willing to talk about this submission in person.

Yours sincerely,

Ailsa Rice

Michel Philip & Ailsa Rice