

TERRANCE SIMON MARBECK
(LIFE IS PRECIOUS GROUP)

13th October, 2017

The Principal Research Officer,
Dr. Jeannine Purdy
Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE
Level 1, 11, Harvest Terrace
West Perth, WA 6005



Dear Dr Purdy,

Kindly find the Submission against Euthanasia made by the "LIFE IS PRECIOUS GROUP" which is an informal grouping of my friends and relatives who all share a common position that there should be NO CHANGE IN LEGISLATION TO PERMIT EUTHANASIA IN WA,

I am the Co-Ordinator of this Group and we plead that our Submission be given due and favourable consideration by the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices.

Yours sincerely,

TERRANCE SIMON MARBECK

SUBMISSION

LIFE is precious.

Anything precious is always treasured, protected and loved. It is never destroyed.

It is because life is precious that any change in the law, in Western Australia to legalise euthanasia is opposed by me and our ***"Life is Precious Group"***.

Legalising euthanasia is legislating to authorise a **killing** of another human being whether directly, in the administration of a dose of a lethal substance by injection or otherwise or indirectly, by assisting in a suicide.

Suicide has already reached alarming proportions. In the 5 years between 2012 and 2016, some 2795 persons killed themselves in EACH of those years. Are we going to deliberately add to this awful number while at the same time endeavouring to end this affliction in our society.

While our hearts and compassionate feelings go out to the families and to those in our midst who have to endure the tragedy of terminal illness, extreme physical suffering and pain and the crushing realisation that it may be irremediable, we opine deliberate death is not the solution.

Death is irreversible. A killing in the circumstances adumbrated not only removes hope (an essence of human existence) but relegates the life being prematurely terminated to the category of something worthless. **LIFE** is precious and never worthless.

Two complex and vexing problems also arise when euthanasia is made lawful.

1. ***The decision to Kill.*** When, How and who is to make this awful decision. The "Suffering person", the "Incurable person", their families or the medical professional.
2. ***Can the killing extend*** to other categories eg. the infirm, the aged, the deranged

Can it be truly said that a person wrecked in pain or overwhelmed by the traumatic knowledge of a terminal illness, make an informed decision about life. Imposing this obligation onto some other third party is to say the least burdensome and traumatic besides being fraught with the danger of abuse.

Doctors and medical professionals are by their calling imbued with a desire to heal, protect, nurture and save human beings. It is not only unfair but an injustice to impose on them a duty to determine if a person is to be killed.

The second problem above is manifest in its injustice and destruction of the value of and the right to life.

It will be impossible in our opinion, to provide safeguards and situations where the killing of another can be justified or cloaked in the mantle of righteousness.

Please do not legislate to destroy the dignity and majesty of human life.

LIFE is precious.

Dated: 13th October, 2017.

TERRANCE SIMON MARBECK

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