

Mrs Angela T Berry

The Joint Select Committee
On End of Life Choices
Level1 11 Harvest Terrace West
Perth WA 6005.

Dear Sirs,

SUBMISSION to the enquiry into the need for WA laws to allow citizens to make informed choices for end of life.

I think it is of critical importance that we do not have laws which provide for Doctor assisted dying or anything similar and I have compelling reasons for my view.

My husband Malcolm had a massive cerebral haemorrhage three months after retiring. He was admitted to hospital and I was told he would not survive the night. He then had a severe seizure that they had difficulty stopping. It lasted for 45 minutes and I was then told he would be severely brain damaged. He was unable to speak, walk or swallow and then developed pneumonia.

He was moved to a side room to await the inevitable end. They recommended that medication be stopped as there was no hope. I and my daughters said no we wanted the medication to continue. They gave him 24 hours maximum to live and suggested it would be kinder not to continue any treatment. His recovery was to say the least remarkable.

If legislation allowed for so called compassionate ending of life, he would not be here today able to walk, talk, shower himself and eat on his own three years later. We lead a normal happy life.

Please ensure that everyone has the same chance Malcolm had thanks to real compassionate care.

Yours Faithfully,

Mrs Angela Therese Berry
19th October 2017