



17th October 2017

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

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

Dear Ms Sanderson,

We are writing in support of any laws that will allow voluntary euthanasia or assisted dying in WA.

Doctors should be able to help when a person has a chronic condition, such as a neurological illness, which makes life unbearable and they wish to die. At present if someone wants to end her/his life under those conditions (voluntary euthanasia or VE), then the act would have to be carried out while the individual was still able to do it of his/her own volition, i.e suicide. This of course is quite legal, but is frequently very distressing for family and friends because of the methods available. How much fairer and kinder if a doctor were able to assist.

Reliable, legal and peaceful methods to end one's life are not readily available to the older generation who may want to avoid a continuing decline in health and dignity. It then becomes a matter of luck whether someone succeeds or ends up the worse for trying. It should be an individual's personal choice to escape a painful and unbearable life without any perceived dignity. A doctor's assistance and help could ensure a peaceful death.

Ultimately, we want to have the right to determine how and when our lives are to end, if we were terminally ill, suffering unbearably without the prospect of improvement, or if we had to depend on others for even the most basic care. Suitable palliative care should be available to all who want it. However, we should also be able to get medical help for a peaceful death, as long as we are competent and have been informed of alternatives. A good death should be at a place of our choice, peacefully, and with family or friends around.

In conclusion, we consider this is a matter of Human Rights.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Yours sincerely,

Peter and Gillian Baddeley