

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: End of Life Choices Submission

Importance: High

From: Jenni Del Marco

Sent: Monday, 23 October 2017 2:42 PM

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

Subject: End of Life Choices Submission

Importance: High

23rd October 2017

Dear Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices,

I disagree with the proposal to introduce state sanctioned end of life choices and therefore legalise euthanasia. It has huge negative implications for the people of Western Australia and is the start of a very slippery slope where human life becomes devalued. I don't believe this is an area in which the state should be legislating.

Firstly, if this proposal was to become law, doctors would be placed in a very difficult ethical position and violate the Hippocratic Oath. The AMA's position does not support Euthanasia.

Secondly, the guidelines and safeguard on whom would be eligible or when they could die would quickly deteriorate as seen in other countries where euthanasia has been legalised for many years. In Holland a woman was euthanised because she was taking too long to die and they needed the bed!! Precedents have been set Belgium and the Netherlands now where terminally ill children can request euthanasia- though they need parental consent for this to be carried out.

A Perth precedent was set in 2014 when a 45 year old man committed suicide after taking a euthanasia drug. Below was the response of Dr Nitshke to this situation.

"If a 45-year-old comes to a rational decision to end his life, researches it in the way he does, meticulously, and decides that ... now is the time I wish to end my life, they should be supported. And we did support him in that,"

I don't believe that there would be strong enough protections in place for people. Even former Labor Prime Minister Paul Keating has warned that euthanasia would "fundamentally alter the way society valued human life"

I strongly encourage the committee to fully explore Palliative Care services offered in WA and how these could be supported financially. Australian Palliative Care Services are currently rated second in the world and provide the careful management of pain through individualised medical plans. This care is holistic and extends to the support of family and carers of the person.

The World Health Organisation and the Australia and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine, state that Palliative Care aims "to improve the quality of life of patients and families facing problems associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychological and spiritual."

Surely this is worth exploring further.

Yours Sincerely

J.M. Del Marco



Virus-free. www.avast.com