

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Submission to Inquiry into End of Life Choices (by mail & email)

From: Deborah Leonard

Sent: Friday, 6 October 2017 11:33 AM

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

Subject: Submission to Inquiry into End of Life Choices (by mail & email)

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

(SIGNED COPY BY MAIL)

We submit to the inquiry our concerns that any move to enable euthanasia or assisted suicide through new or amended legislation will open the door to major abuse and the killing of the elderly, children and those who feel a burden through their illness and disability to others.

In the USA, physicians have stated examples where the private health insurance companies have only supported assisted end of life instead of expensive medical treatment, even when the prescribed treatment had a high success rate.

Reports from other nations reveal cases where elderly relations appear to have been euthanased against their will and in situations of great duress.

We submit our strong preference for the increased provision of the best possible palliative care for the terminally ill, in home wherever feasible, and for increased research and financial support for services aimed at improving quality of life and alleviating pain for those facing life-threatening diseases and ongoing and painful disability.

We request that the Government continues to do all in its power to protect the vulnerable people in our society from any form of exploitation at the hands of those, corporately or personally, who have more to gain from an individual's death than prolonged life.

No person or organisation has the right to take another person's life, directly or indirectly, whatever the reason. This will always be murder or manslaughter, whatever the justification.

Thanking you for your kind attention in this matter.

Yours faithfully

