

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: "End of life choices"

From: Colin Mitchell

Sent: Monday, 16 October 2017 7:27 PM

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

Subject: "End of life choices"

Could you please consider the following submission in your inquiry into "End of Life Choices" –

We are born Western Australians & have lived in the state almost all our lives.

Whilst your inquiry is stated as being "into the need for laws in western Australia to allow citizens to make informed choices regarding their own end of life choices" by in part, referencing precedents in other jurisdictions, it is clear that euthanasia and/or assisted suicide will be the focus.

We hold the following views –

Western Australia is a civilised society and protects and cares for the most vulnerable among us. We therefore should strive to ensure those values are maintained, upheld & strengthened wherever needed.

Where ever else in the world euthanasia and/or assisted suicide has been rationalised into acceptability, it has always been directed at the most vulnerable in those societies. That is, the elderly, the sick, those with depression or other mental illness, those with disabilities etc. Recent history now shows those places, despite pre-legislative pronouncements of protections, have encultured widespread elder abuse by inheritance impatient children, including subtle coercion and outright bullying. Child euthanasia (Belgium). Families and doctors discriminately judging others as better off dead. Hardly indicative of an "end of life choice".

Presently in Australia suicide is the leading cause of death in people under 35.

Whatever vulnerabilities people encounter, all have long been recognised and treatable by well-established proven care and rehabilitation, in a respectful and dignified environment.

Legalised euthanasia and assisted suicide are not dignified deaths and have no place in Western Australia's legislative structure. This is not denying people the right to free choice. It is an open-armed embrace of human life when that life is at its most vulnerable. That one value makes a civilised society.

Yours respectfully-

Colin & Kathleen Mitchell