

Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices Legislative Assembly of Western Australia
4 Harvest Tce
WEST PERTH WA 6004

'Inquiry into the need for laws in Western Australia to allow citizens to make informed decisions regarding their own end of life choices.'

Dear Members of the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices.

I understand "End of life choices" includes euthanasia and assisted-suicide. I am opposed to both on Biblical, ethical and practical grounds.

The Biblical principle is that Human life is sacred and murder is forbidden. This is because Human beings are created in God's image, "fearfully and wonderfully made." (Ps 139). Biblical norms requires the weak and infirm to be treated with dignity, honour and respect. The reason for this is that death is not the end of our existence.

I do not believe that any law authorizing killing and assisted suicide in the name of compassion will be able to protect the vulnerable, the depressed, the poor and those anxious to "do the right thing by their family".

Legislating the right to assisted suicide i.e legalizing killing of vulnerable people, will transform the ethics of society. The culture of killing will permeate into family, health and medical life.

Legalising voluntary assisted dying will not reduce the epidemic of suicide. Instead it will send the wrong message.

Desiring to take control over death is symptomatic of rebellion against God. Euthanasia does not give control over death but gives in to it. Suffering is not futile Christians do not look for suffering but they recognise that it is one of the ways God works in peoples' lives, often drawing them closer to Him. During suffering Christians experience the care of the church, the nearness of God and they long for eternal life with no suffering. Suffering happens in many different ways throughout life and should never be escaped by suicide.

I implore you to not legalise euthanasia or assisted suicide but instead provide increased assistance to palliative care.

Submitted by

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